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Christian Brothers Cork

Centenary Record

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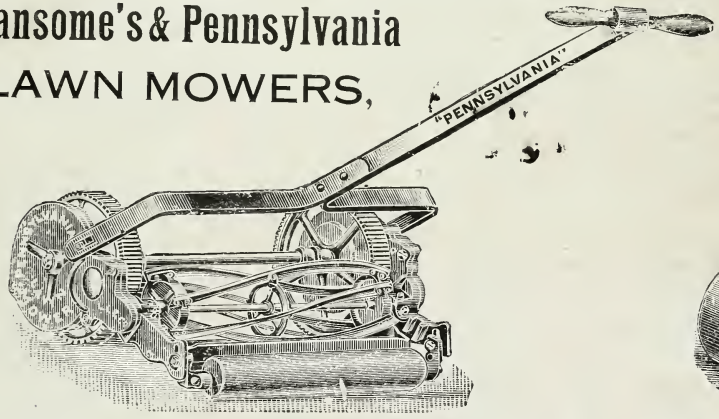

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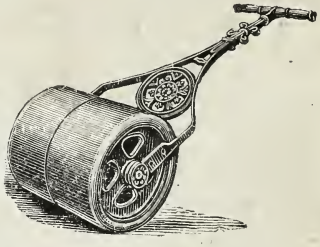

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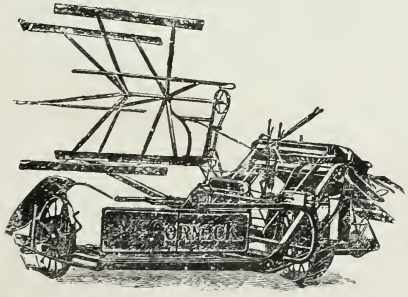

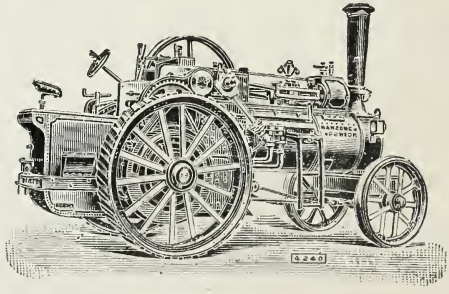

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ODE

TO

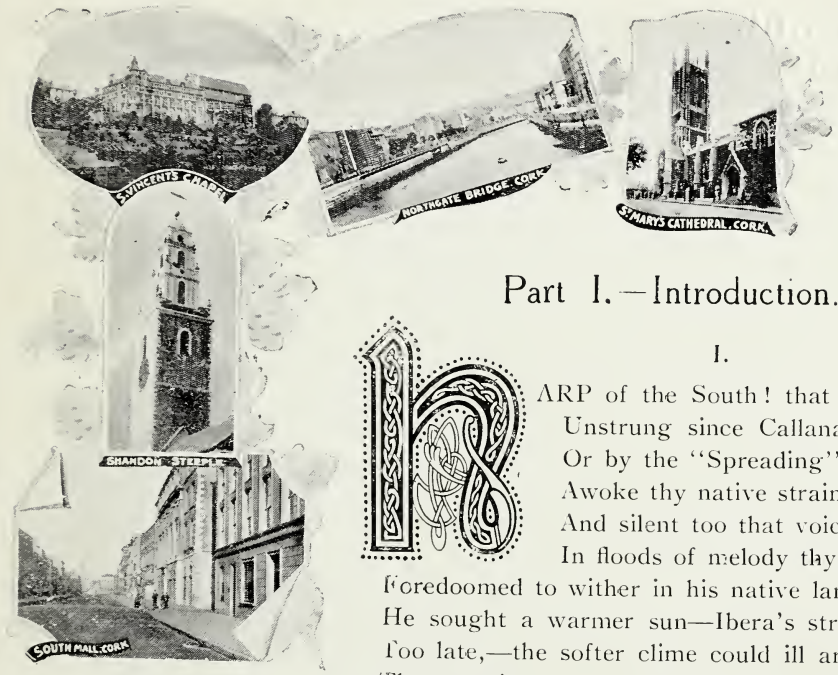
Commemorate the Centenary of the Christian Brothers,

Our Lady's Mount, Cork.

November 9th, 1811
November 9th, 1911

Argument and Summary

1. The Harp of Desmond, and the Cork Poet, Callanan, invoked.
2. The Nature and Object of the Ode.
3. "Time"—Wonders wrought by it—In combination with Man.
4. What both have done in the rise and progress of Cork City.
5. Cork of old—Description of Ancient Site, Surroundings, and First Inhabitants.
6. St. Finbarr—Cork's Founder.
7. Cork to-day—Scenery, River, Glanmire, Sunday's Well, Mardyke, &c.
8. Cork People—Blend of Races—Personal Appearance.
9. Prelude to Our Lady's Mount—The North Monastery.
10. Contrast between Site a hundred years ago and now.
11. Description of Present Site—Buildings, Schools, Cemetery, the Founders Leonard.
12. Retrospect—Penal Laws against Catholic Education.
13. Chapel Lane—Dreadful state of Catholic Boys at the Opening of 1811.
14. The Most Rev. Dr. Moylan, Bishop of Cork—First Christian Brothers' Interview with him—"Take over Chapel Lane School"—Brothers B. and J. Leonard.
15. Humble beginning.
16. Wonderful Expansion of the Schools.
17. Conclusion—First Founders—Leonards, O'Connor, Duggan, Griffin, Dwyer, Burke, &c.
18. Final Tribute to Brother D. Burke.
19. Last stanza—Our Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan.



Part I.—Introduction.

I.

HARP of the South! that silent long hast lain—
Unstrung since Callanan on Desmond's plain,
Or by the "Spreading" Lee, at moonlight hour,
Awoke thy native strains in Gougaune Bow'r.
And silent too that voice that bade thee roll,
In floods of melody thy master's soul;
Foredoomed to wither in his native land,
He sought a warmer sun—Ibera's strand,—
Too late,—the softer clime could ill arrest,
The gnawing wound that wore the minstrel's breast;
But ere he sank, lit up his face a smile,
"My Orphan Lyre still lives for thee, Green Isle!"

II.

Sweet Callanan! too many of thy race,
Endowed by nature with poetic grace;
Were sudden stricken, and within the tomb,
Dropped blighted genius in its early bloom.
And shall thy muffled harp ne'er spake again,
By Lee's dark waters or Ivera's glen;
Is there no theme amid broad Desmond's bounds,
That lies unsung, and claims its wizard sounds?

III.

Bard of Muskerry, Beare and Avondu,
Who has not wept when they were sung by you;
Who has not soared to thoughts and deeds sublime,
That caught the grandeur of thy swelling rhyme?
High strains like these—'tis bootless to prolong,
Though they be dear to memory and song;
They tell of days when Desmond once held sway,
The spoiler came and wrenched it all away.

403652

IV.

Bard of the Ocean, mountain, lake, and fell,
Bard of that Citie Faire you loved so well
Bard of the Sept, the battle, and the breeze—
The "Stilly Night," the moonlight on the trees.
Bard of my youth! it felt the minstrel fire,
When first the flame rushed forth from thy burning lyre!

V.

On thee I call, though cold and hushed thy voice,
Of Erin's lyrists thou art still my choice;
Then let me borrow from that art of thine,
Some feeble rays and tints to colour mine;
That so this Ode—when its high task is done,
No laurel claim save what thy harp has won.
Then silent be no more—thy minstrel dead,
Harp of the South! our theme calls thee instead!

The Island of St. Finbarr, Gougane Barra.

Blarney Castle.

Part II.

I.

NO ancient lay of warlike times,
That called to arms and rang the chimes,
And told the must'ring foe;
That bade the herald sound the crimes,
Their names, their race, and alien climes,
Their barbarous tongue and hated rhymes,
Is ours to sing or show.

II.

Yet runs a theme along our page,
Of deepest int'rest in our age,
And linked with all that's past;
A hundred years it stood the test,
Of critic, foe, and times unblest,
Because the shield that's on its breast,
In Irish mould was cast.

III.

We'll tread the self-same fields as yore,
When Desmond's chiefs their banners bore,
  The foe to face and fight;
New verdure have those war-fields grown,
New life in their rough furrows shown,
New harvests has the sickle mown,
  Thro' heaven's dew and light.

IV.

"Silent, active, gentle ever,
  Time is noiseless—idle never."
What force on earth can match with time?
It silent moves but works sublime:
The Alpine heights, the depths below,
The glacier beds which ceaseless flow;
Those caverns deep—at ev'ry shock,
The wild waves tunnel thro' the rock;
The barrier reefs that block the coasts—
The homes piled up by insect hosts;
The tiny stream from mountain head—
A river broad scoops out a bed;
The tow'ring icebergs, drop by drop,
Congealed, upheave from base to top;
Those giant trees that pierce the clouds,
Whose foliage shades like mighty shrouds;
The winter landscape, dead and dun,
Now smiling 'neath the Summer sun;
All this with wonderment we scan,
And ask ourselves—"And what does man?"

V.

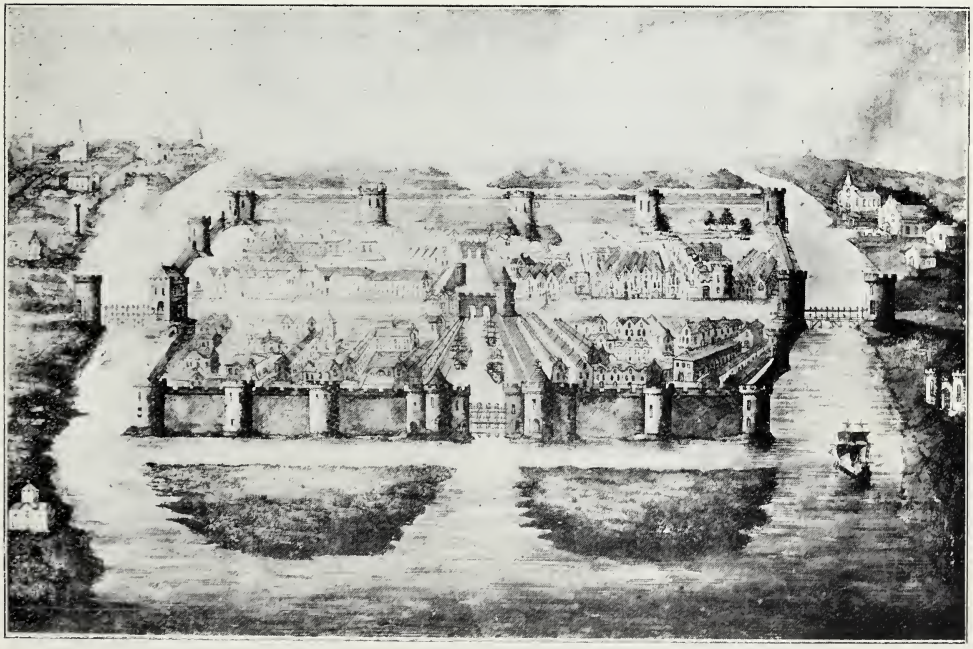
But time combines with human art,
And shows how man can play his part.
Go back a thousand years and see
How looked the winding river Lee?
Its valley then was there as now,
The same green fields and rocky brow,
The sloping banks were decked with green,
The same as now in summer seen;
The morning dawned, the sunset fell,
On Cove and Desmond's Gougaune Dell;
But here the pictures part asunder,
And we look back in doubt and wonder.

VI.

That broad and sweeping line of quays,
Where crowd the ships with ev'ry breeze;
Was then a deep and wide morass,
Nor bridge, nor road was there to pass;
The river wandered where it will,
There it rushed wild—here stood still,—
A shapeless, sedgy, inland sea,
Where gulls and rushes mingled free.
So Spenser, in his "Fairie Queene,"
From high Kilcolman saw the scene.

VII.

The lazy currents closed within
A group of islands, where Saint Finn
From life's rude conflicts fled to hide;
And here Cork's founder lived and died.
Southward, beside the flowing Lee,
A native chieftain gave in fee,
A trackless stretch of lonely beach,



The Citie of Cork, 1542.

Where Finbarr drew his flock to teach.
Thither the scattered sons of toil
Waded across the swampy soil;
With spear, and boat, and hardy oar,
For shelter came, and asked no more;
Save what the ebbing tide would yield
Of slob-land for a hunting field.
Save, ere they launched their vent'rous craft,
And trimmed the rigging fore and aft;
With reverent mien, and artless face,
They knelt and won their bishop's grace.

VIII.

The Saintly life of Cork's recluse,
Spread far and wide like winds let loose;
And numbers thronged of foreign mould,
To hear the lessons he hath told.
And there, encircled by the Lee,
Stood Finbarr's Church and ancient See.
And thus around the hermit's cell,
Fair Corcagh rose as if by spell!

University (late Queen's) College, Cork.

St. Patrick's Street—1911.

Part III.

I.

A THOUSAND years and more have flown,
Since those rude days and men;
And what a city Cork has grown
From out a foggy fen!

II.

At day-dawn stand on Douglas height,
Let loose your vision keen;
And truly say a fairer sight,
You never yet have seen.

III.

If silent wonder move you not,
You lack the artist's eye;
And nature cries, "Your mind's a blot,—
So dead it cannot die!"

IV.

Your gaze is fastened on Glanmire,
Along whose gay and jutting heights
The eyes enraptured never tire,
Being fed with Beauty's pure delights:
The glorious sweep of shrub and tree,
Through which its fairy mansions peep;
The smooth lawns merging in the sea,
On which the sun's rays love to sleep;
The winding stretch of scented bow'rs,
A Cashmere Bendemere they seem;
Embedded like that vale of flowers,
As seen in Lallah Rookh's fair dream.
And on, and on, pass height and dell,
Till Mathew's Tow'r your vision bounds—
Enough! this scene is all a spell,
Which revels free in these fair grounds.

V.

Then Westward turn, take in the line
Of terraced slopes by Sunday's Well;
The boasted beauties of the Rhine,
Have nothing half so fair to tell.
If harassed by the world's cares,
Or stricken by a slow disease—
Your bending burden no one shares,
Nor stoops to know, nor asks to ease;
Then stroll through Mardyke avenue,

Let Nature round you gently play;
The saddened heart, the pallor hue,
You know not where have fled away,
Nor told you ere they bid adieu,
"We're off to take a holiday!"

VI.

The artist's brush, the poet's line,
The landscape round can ill define:—
The long drawn Vista lined with trees,
The fresh'ning scent of Summer breeze;
The sloping lawns that downward sink
To meet the Lee's broad level brink;
The pile on pile of Villas proud,
Half peering through their ivy shroud,
Or climbing up to higher ground,
Look queenly down on all around.
The silent, wandering, dark-brown tide,
That swells the Lee on either side,
Now gleaming where the sunbeams play,
Now hidden from the light of day,
Till tumbling o'er a deep cascade,
It fills the bed which time hath made.
And o'er the scene and jutting bold
Stands out St. Vincent's Cloister old.
If Westward still your gaze is won,
It rests upon the setting sun.

VII.

"The stretch between those rival views
Completes the picture," cries my muse.
The contrast grows, for, queenly fair,
The Southern City rises there,
Where osier huts in scattered groups,
And savage dogs, and wolves in troops,
And matted woods and thorny ways,
The landscape saw in ancient days.

VIII.

How changed the scene! the gushing Lee
No longer wanders loose and free;
Its marshy banks are firm ground,
The lonely desert peopled round:

The huts replaced by noble streets,
The rude canoes by stately fleets;
The stagnant pools and fetid reeds
By spacious quays for Commerce needs;
And temples raised on pillars proud,
St. Mary's, queen among the crowd;
Or Gothic taste has struck its spires,
Usurping sleepy, dark, quagmires.
All this with pride we see to-day,
How time and man can make their way!

IX.

But not alone the desert bare,
Gave birth to such a city fair—
Not less the contrast 'twixt the mould—
The likeness now, and men of old.

X.

Milesian and the Danish race,
Have left an impress on the face,—
The carriage, form, and outward grace,
That marks Cork's sons to-day.

XI.

And blent with these is Norman blood,
Tho' 'gainst or for, the Desmond stood,
In hostile guise or brotherhood,
As interest might pay.

Northgate Bridge.

XII.

That oval face, the clear blue eye,
The figure moulded slim and high,
That soft complexion—Nature's dye,
The triple blood explains.

XIII.

But tells not all—for Nature's print,
Is short-lived, and becomes extinct,
Unless pure Virtue spreads her tint,
And blooms when Nature wanes.

XIV.

This moral blend we recognise,
As cause why Cork claims Beauty's prize;
Nor dulls, nor fades, and when it dies,
Its fairest blush is in the skies!

Part IV.

I.

HARP of the Lee! our tale has run half way,
But o'er its future windings still hold sway;
Then tarry not, the better half will bring
A change of scene, as other visions spring.
Our change of scene, tho' cast in tuneful mould,
Must features wear both dignified and bold:
The painter thus—with light or sombre hue,
Blends Nature's tints, as Nature bids him do.
The playful boy, the man of noble mien,
The canvas shows, but marks the lines between.
Then stately be thy prelude—smooth and grave,
As ocean's tidal swell rolls wave on wave.

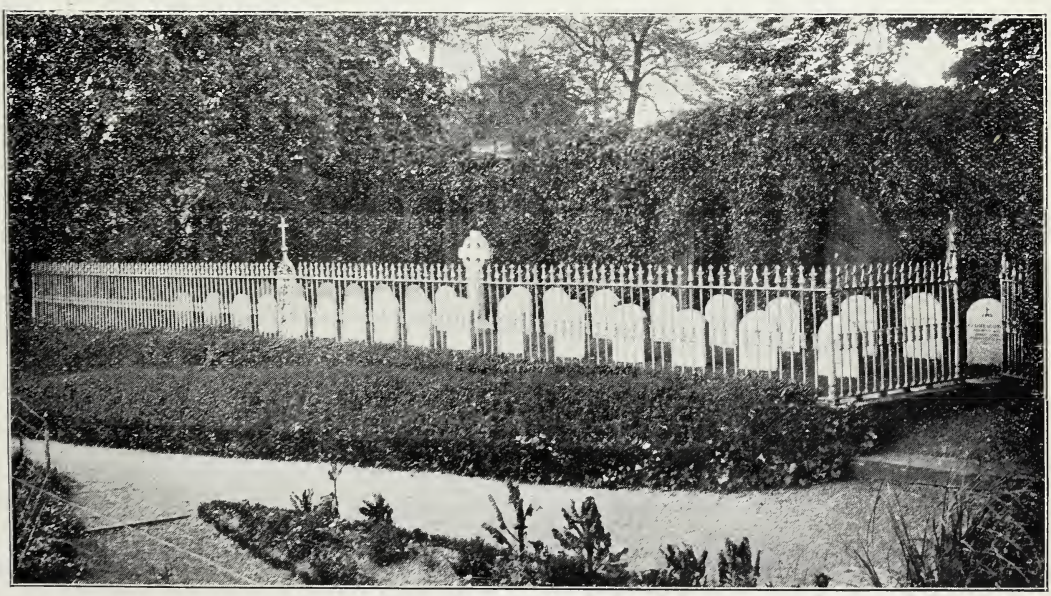
II.

The evening falls, the sun sinks down,
On Muskerry's fair plains;
But ere the hills and heather brown,
His light upon them wanes;
We'll Northward haste to yonder hill,
Our Lady's Mount to climb—
The last and fairest scene to fill,
And close our minstrel rhyme.

The Lee, westward.

III.

But not to view the ebbing light,
  Of sunset on the Lee;
A loftier scene more pure and bright,
  Now moves us mightily:
For while beneath our feet we view
  The City nestling there;
And deem elsewhere the morning dew,
Ne'er fell on field so fair;
Yet scarce our footing we advance,
Than feelings strange—but not by chance,
Quite new to all that won our glance,
  By river, vale, or sea;
Drop sudden on our senses all
We cannot, if we would recall,
The like except in cloistered hall;
  In prayer on bended knee.
Our steps are thoughtful—all within,
Soars high above the city's din,
  Like lark upon the wing;
And one by one—there's not a trace—
The morning's scenes have given chase,
Before the spell that rules the place,
  And chastens everything.



North Monastery Cemetery.

IV.

How sweet to tread at close of day,
When ruling cares have ceased their sway;
Or passion's strife, by grace repressed,
The heart relieved, finds peace and rest—
Some hallowed ground where all is still,
By ruin, lake, or sacred hill,
Where all alone on rustic seat,
We may survey a monk's retreat;
And while our span of life gives time,
Lift up our thoughts to things sublime.
A site like this fair Cork can count,
When standing on "Our Lady's Mount."

V.

FAIR Mount! how fair no legend old,
Or story new has ever told:
A sloping lawn of richest green,
Fills up the foreground of the scene;
Which girdled round with shrubs and trees,
Lends shelter 'gainst the pinching breeze;
Which only a short visit pays,
As Autumn here makes long delays.
At every step you gently tread,
By thicket, bow'r, or flowery bed;
So artful laid, so naively hid,
That Nature nestles there amid.
Athwart, and round the ample space,
Smooth walks and hedge-rows interlace;
For sweet seclusion, health, or rest,
Or silent contemplation best.

VI.

Mid-way up the rising ground,
A pile of buildings stand around;
Whose size and structure plainly tell,
Within the walls what inmates dwell.
But walls can tell but half the truth,
Of work done there for Christian youth.
Equipped and ranged is every part,
To culture minds and mould the heart:
To elevate, restrain, subdue,
What Nature prompts, or claims as due;

Birdseye View City of Cork.

To rouse the fire that latent burns,
For faith and fatherland—but spurns
The hollow breast, to honor dead,
That fears for both to lose his head.
To fix one's goals beyond this life,
Where peace begins, where ends the strife,—
These lessons form the moral code—
The pupils' life in this abode.

VII.

Right on the mound and peering down,
On lawn, and turret, spire, and town,
Serenely stands Our Lady's Mount—
Of all that's here the head and fount.
This Cloister and its hallowed bounds—
The Christian Brothers' Home and Grounds,
Claim now the Harpist's final rounds,
Now list, as he unrolls the sounds!

VIII.

Within a space half-hid by trees,
Where silence reigns except the breeze;
Or when with slow and muffled tongue,
The "Requiem" is faintly sung—
Lie "Three," 'neath Cemetery mound,
Who calmly wait the Trumpet's Sound.
Round these we weave our tend'rest lines,
As to its stem the tendril twines.
But as the traveller oft looks back,
Lest erring foot benight his track,
So glances he a space to find,
If mem'ry left a link behind.

Part V.

"The peasant scarce had leave to live
Above his head,
A ruined shed;
No tenure but a tyrant's will;
Forbid to plead,
Forbid to read;
Disarmed, disfranchised, imbecile,
What wonder if our steps betrays,
The 'Freedman' born in penal days."—*Davis.*

I.

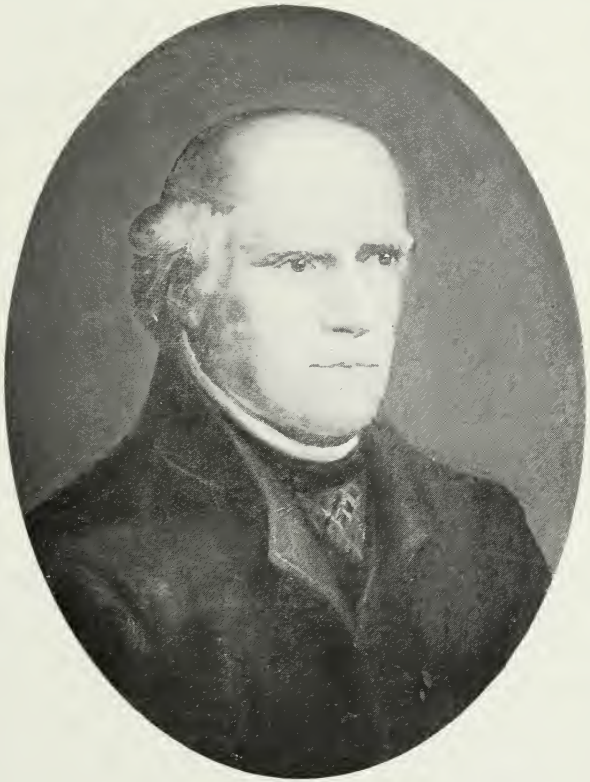
UR Country's tale of wrong and pain,
And all that followed in its train;
Has oft drawn forth the minstrel wail,
And stricken, made the Saxon quail.

II.

But darkest reads the penal page,
Which struck down those of tender age—
That told the boy the laws decreed
Against his Irish kin and creed:
He must not read, he must not write,
He must not see the very light!
All knowledge banned, unless the same
Be purchased by a pervert's name.
But were he marked a Hottentot,
Or of a Moslem sire begot,
It mattered not, the Saxon rule
Provided teacher, board and school—
For all save him who owned the face,
And language of the Irish race.

III.

What vails that Nature set in him
Her fairest face, and strength of limb—
In his bright eye and noble head,
Intelligence and power were read;
That in his boyish form suppressed,
Lay fire that swells the hero's breast;
The manly features tho' not yet,
Upon his youthful brow be set;
But there lay traces undefined—
The outlines of a master mind.



Brother Baptist Leonard.

IV.

These gifts were lost, for there they lay,
Like diamonds hid beneath the clay;
Or if they chanced to see the light,
Their growth was checked by sudden blight.
Preferment, post, and well-won rank;—
His birth-right hopes within him sank.
Nor dawn, nor noon lit up his way,
His sun was set when it was day.

V.

Who'll right those wrongs? 'tis cruel to wait,
When justice seems to hesitate.
Sad prelude this—but whose the hand
That struck a blow for fatherland?
He sleeps beside the winding Lee,—
"John Leonard!" Cork owes much to thee!

VI.

As Winter tide when ebbing back,
Along the shores leaves ruin and wrack;
To tell its tale of rage and storm,
Its deafening din and awful form;
So when the penal age was spent,
It left our country rude and rent;
And like the field—the battle o'er,
Death stalked supreme—'mid wreck and gore!

Cork River.

Part VI.

I.

DARK were the days and cruel the laws,
When on a wintry day;
Two men whose look wore some high cause,
To Chapel Lane made way.
There, in a rude and dingy hall,
Some seventeen pupils sat;
To school they came, but that was all,
They spent the hours in chat.

II.

The strangers scanned the scene around,
Disorder reigned supreme;
No cultured form nor Christian sound,
Not even the noon-day beam
Was there to show the ill-dressed child.
This was the type of school-house then,
Deemed not for brute a fitting den;
"But good enough for Irishmen!"
The Saxon said, and smiled.

III.

Full forty thousand Christian souls,
In Cork that parish held,
And yet of pupils on the rolls,
A score all told beheld!
And through the highways, streets, and lanes,
Some thousands idly strolled—
Unkempt, untaught, and fouled with stains,
A picture best untold.

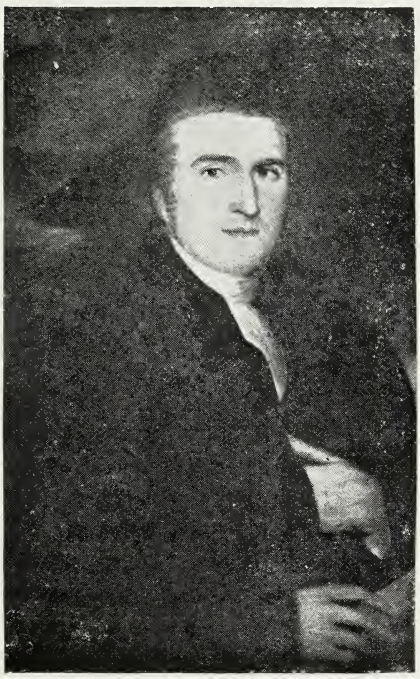
IV.

Moved were the good men at the sight,
They cried, "Is there no hand
To cleanse our city of this blight,
And 'gainst it make a stand?"
A prelate then ruled Finbarr's See—
Good Bishop Moylan named;
Their minds to him they opened free,
And his support they claimed.

Most Rev. Dr. Moylan.

V.

Great minds are drawn by ways unknown
To feel each other's pulse alone;
A gesture, word, a simple look,
Are quite enough—the flint is struck.
So at a glance each soul was read
By each, and Leonard, bowing, said:
"My Lord, 'tis yours to rule and feed,
For us to do your will;
And ne'er had we such pressing need
Than now to know it still;
For long, long years we've nursed a thought,
It strengthens as we pray,
To turn our hands and all they bought,
To nobler aims to-day.



Rev. Brother Patrick Leonard.

We see within the City walls
The little boys run wild;
No voice, no school, no college halls
To teach the Irish child!
Dark ignorance around is spread,
And 'neath its sable folds,
The noxious weeds of vice are bred;
But flowers no eye beholds.
Then here we are, My Lord, to speak
The service we may do:
To rescue little ones so weak,
So dear to God and you.
Two "Christian Brothers" vowed are we,
Our Order thus is styled,
Our talents, hopes, and liberty,
Are pledged to save the child.
Be this our first—tho' barren field,
And you our shepherd, light, and shield;
In God's own time a crop will yield,
E'en from this sterile wild."

VI.

With moistened eyes and hands upraised—
The prelate's face aglow;
"God's finger here, may He be praised,
To help His children so."
The Bishop said: "The work is great,
For few alone to do,
But you will not have long to wait
Till others join you too.
Then go, my sons, my blessing take,
Your mission now fulfil;
To train our youth and bid them wake
To knowledge and good will!"

VII.

PROPHETIC words—inspired he spoke,
For soon a spirit high awoke
To rally round the pioneers
Of education in those years.
And thus from this poor spot of earth,
Our Lady's Mount first drew its birth;
Where Chapel Lane still loves to trace
The infant image of her face.

Monastery and Schools, Our Lady's Mount.

VIII.

And while with wonder we survey
Its vast expansion in our day,
No objects pure, serene, or high,
For cultured minds or careless eye,
The foreground holds—as half so fair,
As those first Founders standing there.

IX.

Marvellous change—a Seer were he
Who then this "Hundredth Year" could see.
Those noble school-rooms—where were they—
Their thousand pupils in his day?
Those Science Halls, that throw such light
On problems erst as dark as night;
This home of art and Christian truth,
Where myriads of tender youth,
Throng year by year to freely drink
Pure knowledge from the very brink;
The morning dawn broke then as now,
On valley, lake, and mountain brow;
But on this famed, monastic site
Waked nothing but a barren blight.
He changed the scene—how skilled the hand
That caused to bloom this sterile land!

X.

And as a mother fails to trace
The features of her offspring's face;
For he, departing from her side,
Sought fortune round the world wide;
And now all changed except in name,
Returns with honour, wealth, and fame.
A boy no more, with blushes red,
He nobly stands a man instead.
The mother's puzzled eyes scan o'er,
The form she knew so well before;
And wondering, asks, "And can it be
The weakling nursed upon my knee?"

XI.

So here in wonder we exclaim—
"Art thou Fair Mount, art thou the same
That ventured on your high career,

In Chapel Lane, this 'Hundredth Year?'
That first so feebly stemmed the tide
Of Penal ignorance and pride,
Which like a pall as dark as night,
Debarred all knowledge—man's birth-right,
From those whom Nature willed to be
A nation glorious and free."

XII.

The morning dawned, and cheered the land,
When you stretched forth a guiding hand;
And drew beneath your gentle rule,
The little ones that had no school.
For on its floor the seedlings grow—
A nation's weal, a nation's woe.
And there within its small domain,
A fallen race stood up again!

XIII.

And if, sweet Lee, you smile with pride
On your "Faire Citie" by the tide;
Compare its humble birth of old,
With what your waters now behold;
No contrast 'twixt the old and new,
So strikingly—so wondrous grew,
As Lady's Mount—whose Hundredth Year
"This Day" completes of its career.

Blackrock Castle.

Part VII.

I.

THE farewell beams of setting sun,
Pierce through the still clouds red and dun;
And throw a soft autumnal light
On river, city, vale, and height;
But ere its broad disc sinks to rest,
The minstrel turning to the west—
His harp drawn closely to his breast,
To borrow inspiration;
Lights up once more the latent spark,
That brightens as the eve grows dark,
And, mingling with the soaring lark,
Is lost in contemplation.

II.

With head upraised and beaming face—
"Harp of the South—of Desmond's race,
Where could you find so fitting place,
To end and crown our theme?
Before your echoes sink in sleep,
One rush of harmony shall sweep
Along thy proud strings—soft and deep,
Like yonder setting beam!

III.

He said: then gazing on the tombs,
Where silent sleep 'mid Autumn blooms,
The Founders Leonard—side by side,
With Griffin's relics, honored wide;
And there too Connor, Duggan, Dwyer—
In death as life clasped with their sire.
And peerless he among them all,
Whose name emblazons every wall,
Of those great class-rooms—"Say, my Lyre!'
What mem'ry proud could e'er inspire
A Theme more touching, grand, and true,
Than Burke's brave life presents to you?"

Rev. Brother Burke.

IV.

Burke! thou type of Christian Brother,
Leader, teacher, more than mother;
Second Founder of this Pile!
Though my art 's no classic style;
Plain and varying its tone,
Cultured not, yet native grown;
Like the sculptured scenes of old,
Rude they were, but truth they told;
This last stanza as a wreath
Of fresh, wild myrtles I bequeath
To you, the pattern and the friend
Of Cork's fair youth unto the end!"
He sang; the last notes rolled away,
And closed this "Centenary Day."

Right Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan.

Last Stanza.

I.

ONE chord remains,—the last, the best,
On purpose high,—to crown the rest.
The Chieftain thus in battle's din,
On his last charge relies to win.
So through the long, long Summer day,
One string suppressed, bursts forth to play;
As if its pent up silence meant,
Its patience tried, was over spent;
So anxious was it to get free,
To sound this closing symphony.

II.

No minstrel he—tho' such he seem,
Who would this Ode select for theme,
Yet fail to fix a foremost place,
Within the foreground's ample space,
For him who now rules Finbarr's See—
His worthy son—and true as he.

III.

For if a glance we backward cast,
To read the annals of the past;
And tongue enquiring, ask what age
Of Cork supplies the brightest page;
When fortune most with amity,
Found peace with high morality?
That page in golden light is spread,—
Our Bishop's name shines at its head.

IV.

Those hands that first were raised to bless,
Our Lady's Mount—its sons confess;
That like the breath of morning dew,
It still falls fresh on all they do.
How this?—save that they still behold,
Those hands in him who guards the fold.

V.

Ring out the note of gladness, ring—
A tribute to our shepherd bring;
Let Corcagh's youthful voices raise
Aloft to swell the hymn of praise;
Too little all—though from our breast
Is poured the purest and the best;
And sweeter line ne'er closed our Song,
Than—"Lord, our Bishop's days prolong."

The Story of Our Lady's Mount, Cork.

THE history of the North Monastery is really the story of the struggle and triumph of Catholic Education in this City during the past century. We can hardly conceive to-day the educational status of the Catholic youth of Cork City a hundred years ago. Intellectual inferiority, moral degradation, and national abasement were the unholy aims of the iniquitous legislation of the State; and although the Penal Laws had been repealed, and religious persecution relaxed since 1782, their direful effects remained. Gross ignorance everywhere prevailed, and the absence of all culture, discipline, and literary training was painfully visible, especially amongst the young. A writer of those times says—"Groups of boys were everywhere seen, uncouth in appearance, irreverent in speech, unwashed, with hair unkempt, and oblivious to either censure or correction." The State provided no funds, no school, no teacher for the Irish Catholic boy. He was not recognised Davis well said—

"The peasant scarce had leave to live :—
Above his head,
A ruined shed ;
Forbid to plead,
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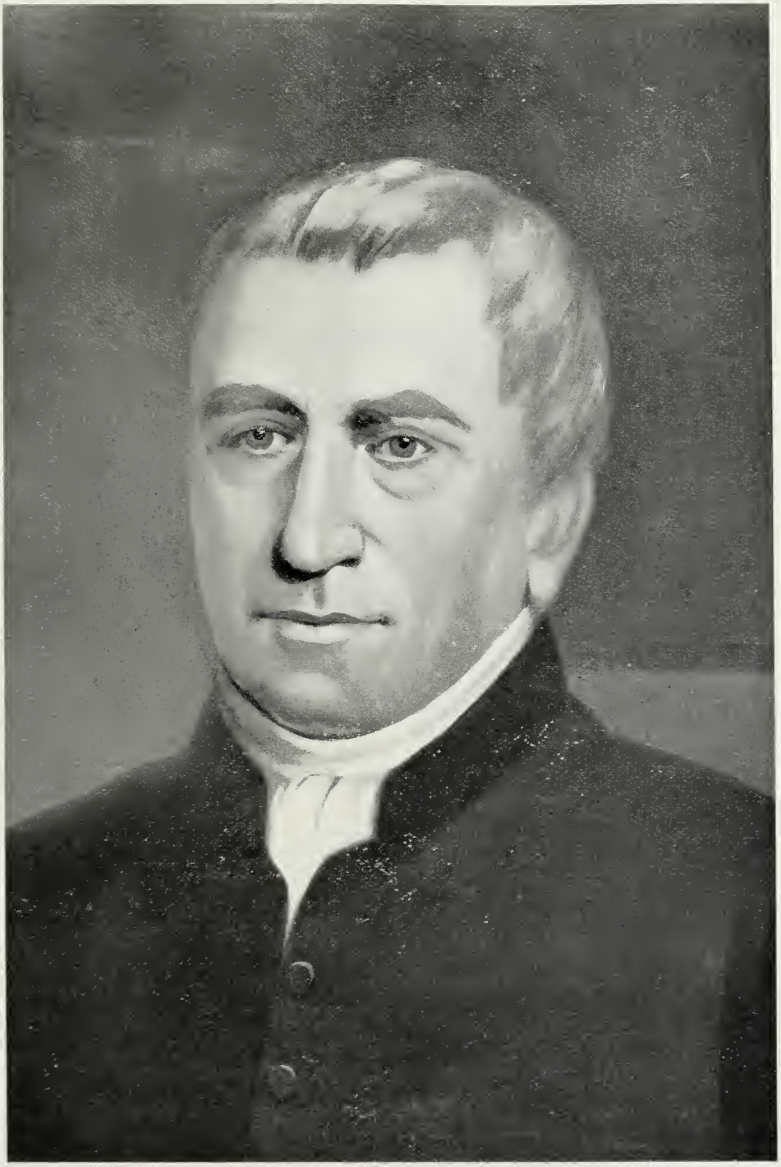

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THE SECRETARY,
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for Ireland, DUBLIN.

Who came at this crisis to rescue the youth of our City? Three Corkmen—one the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese—the Most Rev. Dr. Moylan—and two laymen, Messrs. John B. Leonard and Jerome O'Connor. Luckily, a new teaching Religious Order, having for its object the education of boys—especially the poor—was founded in the City of Waterford in 1802, by the revered Edmund Ignatius Rice. His Institute, now so well known as the Irish Christian Brothers, rapidly spread. Dr. Moylan had an interview with the Founder, and with the Most Rev. Dr. Power, Bishop of Waterford. The latter bore high testimony to the labours of the new Order, and to the immense benefits they were conferring on the Community; and on his return to Cork Dr. Moylan called a great meeting of the Citizens—related what he had seen and heard, and appealed to his flock to aid him in introducing and establishing a Community of Christian Brothers in the City.

Among his audience were the two gentlemen above mentioned. To the Bishop's unspeakable joy and surprise, these two—then in the prime of life—came forward, and offered to devote their lives, fortunes, and talents to the education of the boys of Cork under the rules of the New Order. With this view they entered the Noviciate at Mount Sion, Waterford.

IN the beginning of the last century Cork had a population of 90,000 inhabitants, and the North Parish alone contained 40,000 souls; and yet there was but one small, obscure, Catholic school for boys. This was situated in Chapel Lane, at the rear of the present Cathedral—ill-lighted, ill-equipped, ill-taught, and badly attended.

In the meantime, our two Cork Novices having completed their term of probation returned to their native City, and on the 9th of November, 1811, good Bishop Moylan handed over to their charge Chapel Lane School. This date is, therefore, a memorable and cherished one in the annals of the North Monastery. The period too, 1811-12, was in other respects a notable one in European History. Napoleon Bonaparte was marshalling his redoubtable legions for the invasion of Russia; Pope Pius VII. was his prisoner in Fontainbleau; Statesmen like Fox, Pitt, Castlereagh, Canning, Burke, Sir Arthur Wellesley, were contemporaries, and ruled the destinies of nations; Henry Grattan was nearing the close of his brilliant career; Sir Robert Peel was Chief Secretary for Ireland; and O'Connell, then in his 35th year, was battling for the rights and liberties of his down-trodden country.

To turn to our story: The picture which the School presented to the young pioneers, on their first entering, was truly depressing. There were only 17 pupils present—ignorant, indocile, and rude. But, our two religious instructors, strengthened in the grace of their new vocation, and possessed of a strong will and

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a high moral principle, were not easily discouraged. They were much comforted a little later on by the arrival in their ranks of Mr. Patrick Leonard, brother of Mr. John Leonard—a banker in the City. He, seeing the great good effected by the Brothers, offered himself to the Bishop to join the new Community. His Lordship embraced him, saying:—"Now, my children will not want a father."

These first founders being all Cork Citizens, and men of position and influence, soon attracted the sympathy and support of the public. The reputation of the School spread, and the building soon became wholly inadequate to accommodate the press of pupils seeking admission. Moreover, the house in which the Brothers resided in Clarence Street was ill-suited to their increasing numbers, their life and duties, and this led to the foundation of our Lady's Mount—then called Peacock Lane.

Mr. Patrick Leonard's (Brother Joseph) accession to the infant Community proved to be a source of great strength. He had a large capacity for business, and this, combined with a strong faith in his new calling, and his wide influence among his fellow citizens, fitted him to procure the necessary funds and negotiate for the new Foundation. With the hearty approval of Dr. Moylan and the Clergy, a public meeting was convened, the claims of the Brothers and their young charge laid before it, a subscription list opened, and £3,000 was collected.

But joys and sorrows fill up our days—the latter in very unequal proportion—so here, just at this juncture, when the Brothers most needed friends, they lost their first and best—indeed, their very father—by the death of their Bishop, Dr. Moylan, in February, 1815, in his 81st year. A great and holy prelate, he was regarded by his flock as the most amiable of men. To him the credit is due of introducing the Ursulines and founding the Presentation Nuns in this City, and of being one of the three principal agents in founding Maynooth College in 1795. When dying he did not forget the Brothers, bequeathing to them all he was possessed of, £600, and tenderly recommending them to his successor.

To secure a suitable site for the New Monastery and Schools was now Brother P. J. Leonard's chief concern, and to his taste, judgment, and tact the Brothers and their pupils now, and for generations to come, owe our Lady's Mount—the North Monastery and Schools—the home of the Brothers.

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> "The pleasant Lee, that like an island fayre
> Encloseth Cork in his divided flood."—*Spenser.*

And now standing on this same Mount, and looking back on the picture it presented a century ago, and that which we gaze on to-day—what material for reflection, wonder, and gratitude the contrast offers! This fair, busy enclosure saw then neither tree nor shrub, nor habitable dwelling. An old quarry and sally grove blocked up the entrance; a few clumps of desolate furze and hawthorn lay scattered here and there up the slope; some stray sheep and goats browsed loose on the hills; and nought of life or activity was seen except an occasional herdsman. What a transformation is to-day's scene! The North Monastery, its Schools, its Science Halls, the busy hum of its thousand pupils, its history, its influence, its future. Its charming grounds, its sweet smiling lawn, its fine lines of elms, chestnut, and birch, laden with rich, spreading foliage; its neatly trimmed hedgerows, its ivy-lined grottoes and fern-decked rockeries; its lovely bowers and shrubberies and terraced flower-beds; its white gravel walks, broad and open, or retiring and hidden—all desirable appendages, not merely as they gratify the eye, but as they powerfully contribute to promote the taste, culture and refinement of an educational establishment.

Some trouble and delay were incurred in securing the site, as the Penal Laws prohibited Catholics from purchasing under a long lease. However, the difficulty was soon got over, and Sir George Gould, Bart., a Catholic, then residing in France, and owner of the property, on learning the laudable purpose for which Brother J. Leonard wanted the land, readily disposed of it to the Brothers.

The Monastery and Schools were at once started, and in the year 1816 the Brothers quitted their residence in Clarence Street—now named Gerald Griffin's Street—and came to dwell in their new home, Our Lady's Mount. The Schools consisted first of only the centre block—the two wings, the Art School, the Technical and Laboratory Halls, the Wood and Metal Workshops were, as time went on, subsequently added.

The New Monastery Schools, though ready for the reception of pupils, were not opened till 1817. The year 1816 was a distressing one in the City. An unusually wet summer had destroyed the fruits of the earth; a great scarcity of provisions prevailed, and such as could be obtained, particularly by the poor, was of a very unwholesome description. Typhus fever broke out, scarcely a family in the City was spared its ravages, and the loss of some of its members. Hospital accommodation was totally inadequate for the number of patients who sought admission.

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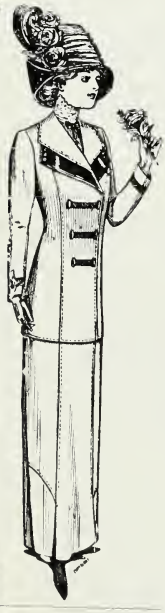

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Mr. Timothy Mahony.

The epidemic raged for one year, and during its continuance Mr. Mahony was unremitting in his attention to the sick, often himself—like St. John of God—bearing the fever-stricken patients to the hospital. He contracted the dread disease, and died a Martyr of Charity, 1817. As soon as the fever declined, the New Schools and Convent were prepared and furnished. They were opened for the admission of pupils in 1818, and soon became crowded to their utmost capacity.

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Lady Post Office Appointments—contd.

—Messrs. Forde, 1st; Ryall, Blarney Street, 2nd; also 4th. Last Post Office Examination, Fermoy—Master Charles Mountjoy, 1st. Last examination, Kinsale—Master John Grace, 1st. Last examination, Belturbet, Co. Cavan—Messrs. Ryall, 1st; Downes, 2nd, successful. Last examination, Westport, Co. Mayo—Master John Aherne, 2nd, successful. Last Bandon—Master Thomas Ryall, 1st; also 2nd and 3rd. Last Midleton—Mr. Patrick O'Leary, 1st; also 2nd, 3rd and 4th places. Last Mallow—Mr. Patrick Mehigan, 1st; also 2nd, 3rd, &c. Previous examination, Mallow—Mr. Patk. O'Leary, 1st place in the Three Kingdoms.

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THE birth and early years of a religious Order are often marked with much of the feebleness and dependence of infancy, and like it is compelled to lean for support external to itself, which, if not forthcoming, or denied, must totter and fall. What Nature supplies to the little one, wise Providence gives the other through the medium of sympathisers and benefactors. The North Monastery is an instance. While the Schools were flourishing the Community were in straits, having to undergo many privations. The large sums required for the building and fitting up of the

Thomas Lyons, senr., J.P.

Schools and residence exhausted their resources, so much so that they had scarcely the means of subsistence—being in want of the most pressing bodily needs. Their condition became known to the Rev. Denis Lyons—a young priest then resident in the City, and a member of a highly respectable and benevolent family. He visited the Schools, saw the good effected there, became the warm friend of the Brothers, and made the public aware of their private difficulties, and enlisted the practical sympathy of the City in their behalf. This estimable clergyman died in the 34th

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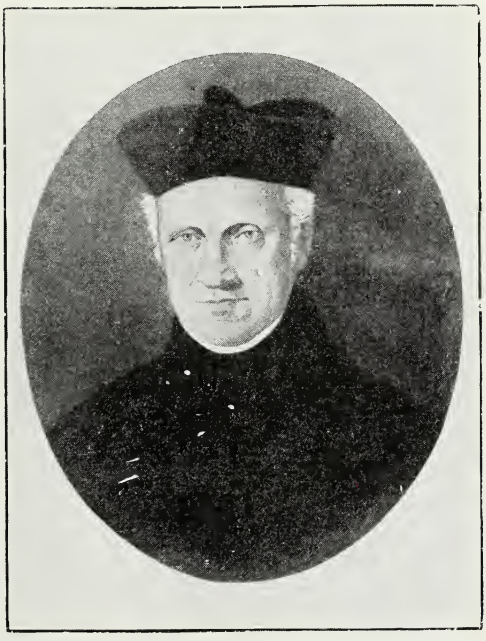
year of his age, and bequeathed his library—all he had—to the Brothers. To the Mahonys of Blarney, the Lyonses, Barrys, and Murphys, of Cork, &c., the North Monastery ever gratefully looks back as to its stays and protectors in the days of its weakness and struggles. Mr. Thomas Lyons, the brother of the above, died 27th April, 1851, after a life of great public utility.

The crisis being over, the Schools began to flourish, the attention of the public was drawn to them, public examinations were held, the pupils secured lucrative and respectable positions, and the credit of the Institution rose so high that it became to be regarded with pride as one of the leading educational establishments in the country.



Rev. Brother M. P. O'Riordan.

The Schools were visited about this time—1824—by Richard Lovell Edgeworth, brother of the celebrated writer, Miss Maria Edgeworth, one of the first educationalists of the time, and he has left in his own words his appreciation of them:—"There is so much to say and approve of in this establishment that really I do not know where to begin. I was first struck by the appearance, discipline, and obedience which seemed to pervade the whole. I make no doubt that acquirements are equal to what might be expected from the unwearied zeal and constant attention of the disinterested conductors of this unique establishment."

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19, Great George's Street, CORK.

IN 1821 the Brief of our Most Holy Father Pope Pius VII. was received approving and confirming the Order of Irish Christian Brothers. It was joyfully and formally accepted by the Brothers on the Feast of the Holy Name that year. It is noteworthy that this Papal Brief was the first granted to, and approving of a Religious Order of Men in Ireland. A new set of Rules, in agreement and in accordance with the constitutions approved by His Holiness, was drawn up. A General Chapter of the Brothers was held the same year in Waterford, and Brother Edmund Ignatius Rice, the Founder, was installed the First Superior General of the Order. In 1826 Brothers John and Patrick Leonard, and Michael Paul O'Riordan went to Waterford to serve their Noviciate under the Rules of the Papal Brief. Mr. M. P. O'Riordan was a well-known Cork gentleman, and on the demise of the Founder in 1841 he was elected second Superior General.

Very Rev. B. T. Russell, O.P.

Among those who joined the Cork Community at this period was a young Corkman, who was subsequently connected in a remarkable way with the fortunes of the North Monastery. This was James Bernard Duggan, then in his twenty-sixth year. The celebrated Father Bartholomew Russell, O.P., and he were fast

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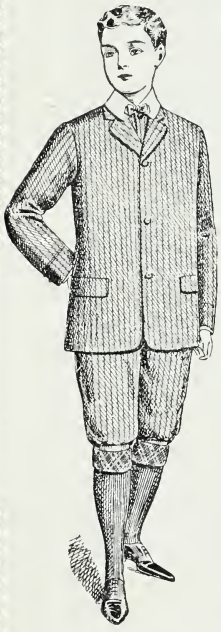

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Best Assortment. Lowest prices. Fit, Style and Workmanship guaranteed.

QUEEN'S OLD CASTLE, CORK.

friends from their childhood, and the former, recognising the talent of his friend and his high-toned religious turn of mind, counselled him to join the Brothers at the North Monastery. This he did in 1826, and from that date until his happy death in 1882, he laboured with a zeal, energy and address, as entitled his name to be associated with those of the most successful Superiors of Our Lady's Mount. It was during his Directorship that the two fine wings were added on to the centre block of the schools. He also introduced the system of public examinations, to which the citizens were annually invited. The object of these displays was to show forth to the public the work that was being done by the pupils, and the course of instruction they received. These exhibitions became extremely popular and drew large audiences, and very much contributed to extend the reputation of the Schools.

FROM 1823—1829 Ireland was the theatre of stirring events: Daniel O'Connell towered above all the men of his time; and he was ably seconded by such leaders as Richard L. Shiel, Lord W. Plunkett, and Dr. Doyle, Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. Through them the Catholic Association was founded in 1823. Its object was the "Emancipation of Catholics by legal and constitutional means." It was the most powerful political organisation ever known in Ireland. It had 6,000,000 members and £500 a week rolled into the Treasurers in Dublin to maintain its working. Bigotry, craft, the hostility and power of England, went down before it. Peel yielded through necessity, Wellington through dread of civil war, and George IV. stamped with rage as he signed Emancipation in 1829. O'Connell fought and won. The Liberator was not ignorant of the work that was being done by Brother Edmund I. Rice and his associates—to emancipate the youth of Ireland in the schoolroom. The Founder and he were intimate, held frequent interviews, and the Great Tribune told him that the battle his Brethren were waging in the school was not less glorious and necessary than his, in the turmoil of the political arena. O'Connell laid the foundation stone of the famous Richmond Street Schools in Dublin in 1828. They were then named, and have ever since been known as, the "O'Connell Schools."

Three years before his death—1844—O'Connell coming to Cork paid a formal visit to the North Monastery Schools. The occasion was memorable, as it was but a short time since his liberation from Richmond Prison, and the Nation ran wild with joy at the news of his release. A crowded assemblage of clergy, ladies and gentlemen, and pupils were present to receive him. On a Corinthian pedestal was exposed a bust of the Liberator, embedded in a bower of roses. His reception was tumultuous—the building seemed to rock under the vehemence of the shouts of joy, the clapping of hands, and the strains of music.

To an address phrased in the most touching and felicitous language, and read by one of the pupils, O'Connell replied:—"There is nothing in human language sufficiently emphatic to enable me to thank you as my heart dictates, and as my

T. W. MURRAY & CO.'S
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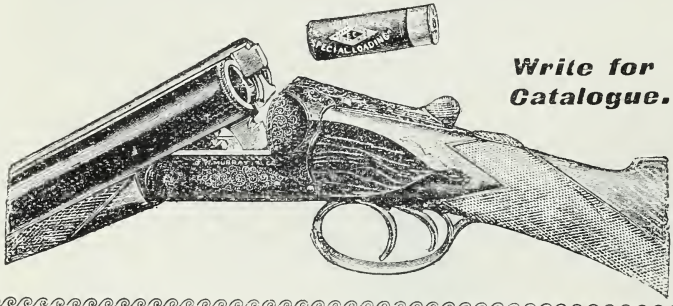
ON THE ANSON-DEELEY PRINCIPLE. Hand-made throughout.



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judgment requires. I cannot but feel to what an exaggerated extent your juvenile enthusiasm has carried you when you describe me in terms set down in your address. I congratulate you, my dear child, on the taste, feeling, and expression which you have shown in its rendering. I rejoice in coming amongst you. I rejoice in seeing the progress of education in your ranks. Your instruction is no gigantic scheme of godless education. Your education is based on the only solid principle which can render education useful—religious sentiment, religious instruc-

Daniel O'Connell, "The Liberator."

tion—and when religion becomes the basis there is no height to which the pyramid may be raised when the basis is so strong, so useful, so blissful. I thank you for the address, and I feel the gratitude that you ought also feel towards the admirable Institution that instructs you—one of those Societies which it pleases Providence to call forth from time to time to direct the high destinies of man, that he may be prepared from the earliest period of his intelligence to look upon the glories of

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another and better world (applause). I am rejoiced at what I see to-day. I am rejoiced at what I know of this institution; you do it credit, and it does you the utmost utility. Persevere in the course you are pursuing. Give due respect to these admirable men, and show by your future lives that you are deserving of their attention, and the blessings of a beneficient Providence. My dear young friends, a thousand thanks for your kindness."

In the year preceding the Emancipation Act—1829—was founded the first branch establishment in connection with the North Monastery. This was Sullivan's Quay School.

There lived then as parish priest of St. Finbar's, Dean Collins—a venerable and highly respectable ecclesiastic. He was an intimate friend of Brothers Patrick and John Leonard. Appreciating the work done for boys in the North Monastery for the North parish, and keenly alive to the educational wants of his own, he pressed the good Brothers to open an establishment, at Sullivan's Quay. The site was purchased, and three schoolrooms were ready for the reception of children in 1828. On the basement storey was a range of shops, the rent of which helped to maintain the Schools.

The rooms were soon crowded, and numbers of boys had to be refused admission. Later on this inadequate accommodation, the character of the site and its limited space to work in, and in fine the unsanitary state of the premises, demanded a complete reconstruction, involving heavy expense; and although efforts were made from time to time to remedy the evil, it was not until 1905, under the

Sullivan's Quay Schools.

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. . . ESTIMATES FREE.

directorship of Rev. Brother J. A. Walker, that an effective and permanent alteration and remodelling took place.

The building stands right on the line of the Quay near South Gate Bridge, the front facing the river and looking northwards. The picture here given leaves a pleasing impression of the exterior of the building. The interior consists of six fine, lofty class-rooms, including a Science and Laboratory Hall—all equipped with the most modern school furniture and apparatus. At the rear is a spacious concreted recreation ground. The renovations cost upwards of £2,000.

Very Rev. Canon D. McNamara, P.P.

From its opening in 1828 to the present year this establishment has maintained a high educational standard, and the more advanced pupils, who from year to year are drafted to the North Monastery, have stood in the front rank, and often outdistanced their class-fellows in the educational race. Much of this is due to the practical interest and fostering care of its present parish priest, Very Rev. Canon D. McNamara, P.P., and his venerated predecessor, Right Rev. Monsignor Maguire, P.P., to the fine staff of teachers conducting it, but notably to the high intellectual parts and splendid character of the pupils. The stranger is at once struck by the culture, graceful bearing and beautiful physique of the boys, which seem to be an enviable inheritance of this locality, so much so that the artist will vainly seek for a finer type of fair forms elsewhere.

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Its School Choir, numbering 100, deserves special mention. Messrs. Bernard Johnson, B.A., Mus .B. Cantab., and G. H. Smith, Mus. D. Oxon., thus report of it (May 31, 1910) :—" Beauty of tone, great refinement of expression, and musicianly feeling characterised the singing of this excellent choir. The general effect was in the highest degree praiseworthy, and the sight reading was particularly good." :—

	Max. Marks		Marks Awarded.
Tone and voice production ...	40	... ...	40
Intonation	50	... ...	49
Time	50	... ...	50
Attack and ensemble ...	40	... ...	38
Expression and style ...	60	... ...	58
Sight-reading ...	100	... ...	92
Musical Knowledge ...	60	... ...	60
Total	400	Total	387

So far back as 1830 the Monastery Schools were visited by well-known English educationalists. Among them was Mr. E. Protheroe, M.P. for the City of Bristol. This gentleman gave his impression of them in the following letter to Brother P. J. Leonard :—

"26, Charles Street, St James's Square, London,
"February 24th, 1830.

"Sir—I assure you with sincerity that I embrace the opportunity that you offer me, of confirming my good opinion of your system of education, with the greatest satisfaction. The remembrance of the two long visits I paid to the Peacock Lane Schools is quite fresh in my mind, and so it will long remain. When I examined your children I expressed that wonder at their intelligence, which was natural to an Englishman unprepared for the talents and quickness I was to find in the children of Munster, if not in the children of the rest of the aboriginal Irish; but if that surprise diminished on further acquaintance, my lively satisfaction with all I saw and heard in your schools has not in the least abated.

"The obedience, quickness, attention, and interest in their learning shown by all your children, at once declared to me that their teachers possessed the happiest mode of conveying instruction. My examination extended beyond your cleverest boys, and I must add that I was satisfied with the progress and high degree of knowledge I admired in a few was the result not of particular, but universal attention to all your pupils. My attention was directed to the religious education given in your Society, and the boys underwent a full examination in their religious faith, and in their knowledge of Scripture History, both Old and New. Truth obliges me to bear testimony to the satisfactory state of religious knowledge in your children. I never anywhere found, I will not say children merely, but men, more able to give a reason for the faith that is in them than your boys; never any

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Use GAS for LIGHTING—
It is most Efficient and Economical with proper Burners.

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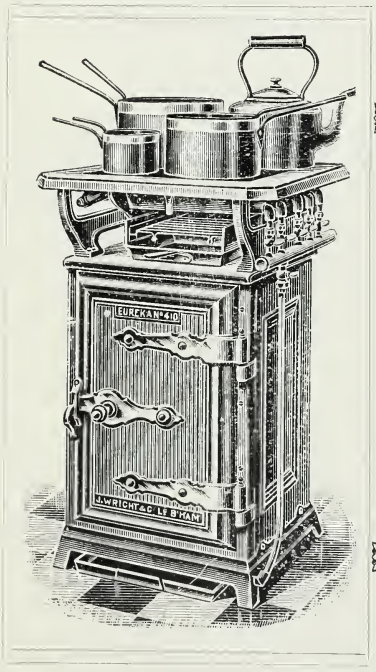

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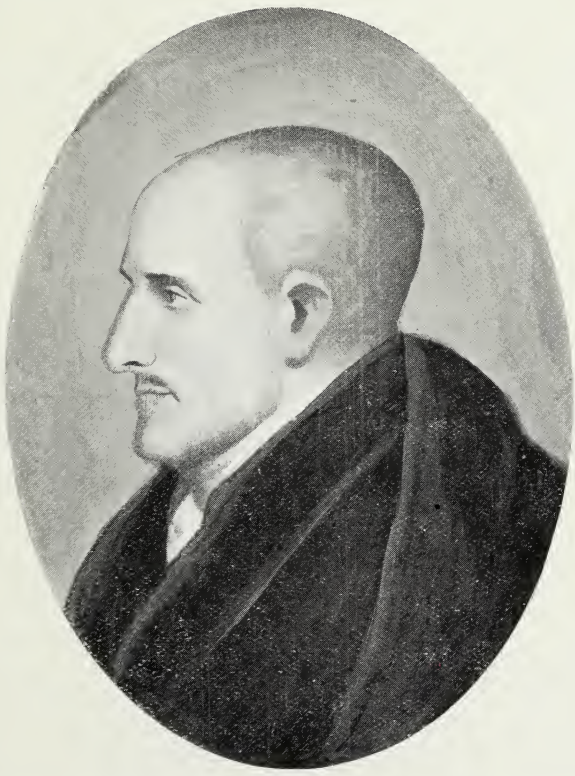
72, South Mall, CORK.

men happier, or more just in their applications of the doctrines and precepts of religion to the social duties of life. . . . . .

"Believe me to be, Sir, with the highest respect, your very faithful and obedient humble servant, "E. Protheroe.

"To Mr. P. J. Leonard, Peacock Lane Schools, Cork."



John Barry, M.D.

Brother Patrick Joseph Leonard died in March, 1831. His acquaintance with the City, and the high degree of respect in which he was held, enabled him to procure the pecuniary funds to maintain the School during his lifetime. Among the many friends was one to whom the Community is everlastingly indebted, viz., Dr. John Barry—a physician of long and extensive practice in the City. Brother Joseph often conversed with him on the subject dearest to his heart—the rescuing and educating the poor boys of the City. Dr. Barry became imbued with the spirit, and during his lifetime proved himself one of the most tried friends and generous benefactors of the North Monastery. He died in 1834.

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THE celebrated poet and novelist, Gerald Griffin, became a member of the Community of Our Lady's Mount in 1839. Writing to a friend in London, he says: "I was ordered off here (North Monastery, Cork) from Dublin last June, and have been since enlightening the craniums of the wandering Paddies of this quarter, who learn from me with profound amazement and profit that o-x spells ox; that the top of the map is the North, and the bottom the South, with various other branches, as also that they ought to be good boys, and do as they are bid, and say their prayers every morning and evening, etc., and yet it seems curious to myself that I feel a great deal happier in the practice of this daily routine than I did when I was roving about your City, absorbed in the modest prospect of rivalling Shakespeare and throwing Scott into the shade."

Gerald Griffin.

The year that Gerald Griffin spent in the Cork Community was one of real pleasure to him. He enjoyed great peace of mind, liked much the house and grounds and rural walks, and was delighted with the work of the Schools. At recreation he was the picture of happiness. His conversation was free and lively, and he often amused the Community with song and story. "Those Evening Bells,"

We hit the nail on the head.

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TEL. No. 800.

and the "Angel's Whisper" were great favourites with him. He had a perfect knowledge of the peasantry, whose phraseology he took off to perfection. Being asked how he acquired such an inimitable fidelity in his delineations of them, his reply was that he was in the habit of mixing among them at farmers' houses, by the fireside, talked freely with all the household, heard them tell stories, describe their rural occupations, noted their original flashes of wit and humour, and stored his memory with these and a thousand other incidents for future use. Gerald had a most retentive memory, so that, like Walter Scott, whatever he heard he could repeat word for word. He spent days and nights exploring the beauties of the country, and conversing with all sorts of people, and gathering every grey legend floating among the inhabitants. Knowing his great talents for literary work, his religious superiors prevailed on him to take up the writing of a series of tales on religious and moral subjects. The first he took in his hands was "The Holy Island," but he was seized with his last illness ere it was completed. He died on June 12th, 1840, in his 37th year. His remains are interred in the quiet cemetery in the grounds of the North Monastery. The shamrocks and daisy growing on his grave have been plucked and carried to the ends of the earth, as souvenirs of their pilgrimage by his admirers from many lands who have visited his last resting place.

Gerald Griffin's principal works were: "Tales of the Munster Festivals," "The Aylmers of Ballyaylmer," etc., "The Rivals" and "Tracy's Ambition," "Tales of the Jury Room," "The Duke of Monmouth," "Tales of the Five Senses," "The Voluptuary Cured," and "Night at Sea," The Invasion," "The Poetical Works." and "Tragedy of Gisippus," and "The Collegians," or the "Colleen Bawn." Unlike the majority of writers of fiction, his reputation has widely expanded since his death. In 1840, when he was laid in his grave, at the early age of seven and thirty, not one person knew the loss a pure literature had sustained for fifty who now join in veneration for his virtues and admiration for his various and delightful talents. The goodness of his heart, the purity of his life, the combined humour and pathos of his writings, all promise longevity of reputation to Gerald Griffin

. . . . . "He had kept
The whiteness of his soul, and so men o'er him wept."

He united all the simplicity and cordiality of Oliver Goldsmith to much of the fiery energy and manly zeal of Robert Burns. His life does not disappoint the reader who turns from the work to the author; it is indeed the most delightful and harmonious of all his works. From his childish sports and stories by the Shannon, until his solemn and enviable death beside "the pleasant waters of the Lee," a golden thread of rectitude runs through all his actions. A literary adventurer in London at nineteen, with a Spanish tragedy for his sole capital, famous at thirty, a religious five years later, a tenant of the Christian Brothers' cemetery at thirty-seven —the main story of his life is soon told. Over its details, we are confident, many a reader will fondly linger, and often return to contemplate so strange and so beautiful a picture. From his heart sprang sentiments not unworthy of St. Francis de Sales, from his brain creations of character rivalling Sir Walter Scott.

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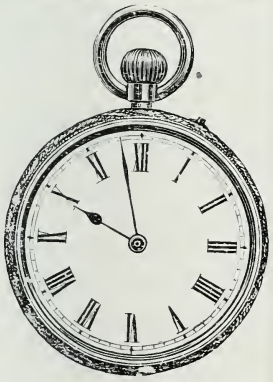

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PERHAPS there is no word in the English language conveys so distressful and harrowing a meaning as the "Famine." This scourge—due to the "potato-blight"—fell upon the land in '46 and '47. The potato was then the staple article of food for the majority of the Irish people, but owing to the destructive hand of this poisonous and mysterious visitation almost the entire crop withered and rotted in the ground. The result was calamitous. 6,000,000 of people were vainly crying for food. More than a third of the children attending the North Monastery Schools felt the pangs of hunger.

Matthew Honan, J.P.

Timothy Mahony, J.P. (2).

Brother Baptist Leonard and the community made strenuous efforts to cope with the distress. They cut down every expense, and deprived themselves even of necessaries to come to the relief of the boys. Donations in money and food were procured from the friends of the Institution, and more than 300 poor boys received one good meal every day. Trifling as this relief was, it was the means of saving the lives of many, and their parents from witnessing the heartrending spectacle of seeing their offspring expire for want of food. When the distress declined the distribution of food was discontinued, but the surplus fund was turned to afford relief in the shape of money, clothes, or school books, to a large number in each of the succeeding years. Among the friends most conspicuous in this charitable work were the Bishop, John Francis Maguire, M.P., and Timothy Mahony.

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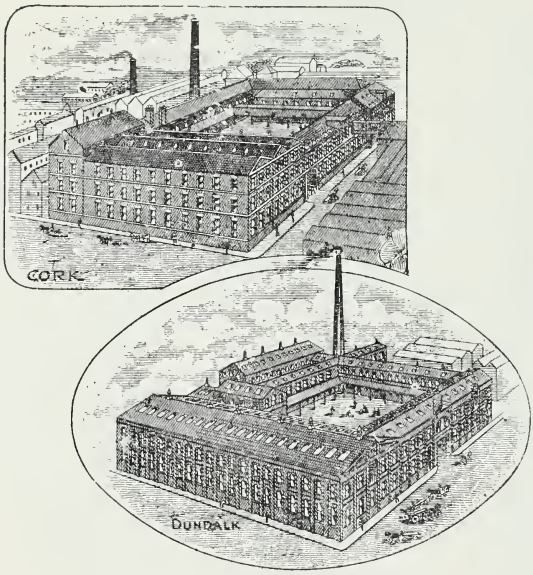

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Blarney Street Schools.

Time rolled on, and better days with it, the dark period of the famine gave place to light and hope. Life and vigour revived in the Schools, which now became overcrowded, so that it was considered advisable to open a second Branch establishment in Blarney Street. With the cordial approval of the late Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Delany, and through the influence and exertions of the very Rev. Canon Foley, Adm., Cathedral, and Mr. James Hegarty, this establishment was opened the year after the famine, 1849. Blarney Street and its many offshoots were then, as now, the most densely crowded and congested quarter of the City. They are mostly inhabited by the working and humbler classes, and no school existed for boys, who literally swarmed in the streets and back lanes. The situation, therefore, appealed to the philanthropic; and to the piety and generosity of these two worthy gentlemen the erection of this fine establishment was due. Three schools were at first built—but soon the throng of pupils required three other rooms, which were afterwards added—giving accommodation to over 500 boys.

It is a handsome structure, forming a frontage 120ft., with wings at both ends. The entrance faces Blarney Street, and the rear and recreation ground command a charming view of the river and the City. The rooms are spacious, well-lighted, and ventilated; and the furniture and general equipment are quite up-to-date. A photo view of the Schools from Blarney Street is here produced. The deep interest Canon Foley and the Hegarty family took in the promotion of education, and indeed in every charitable enterprise, has laid the North Parish, and the Christian Brothers in particular, under special obligations to them.

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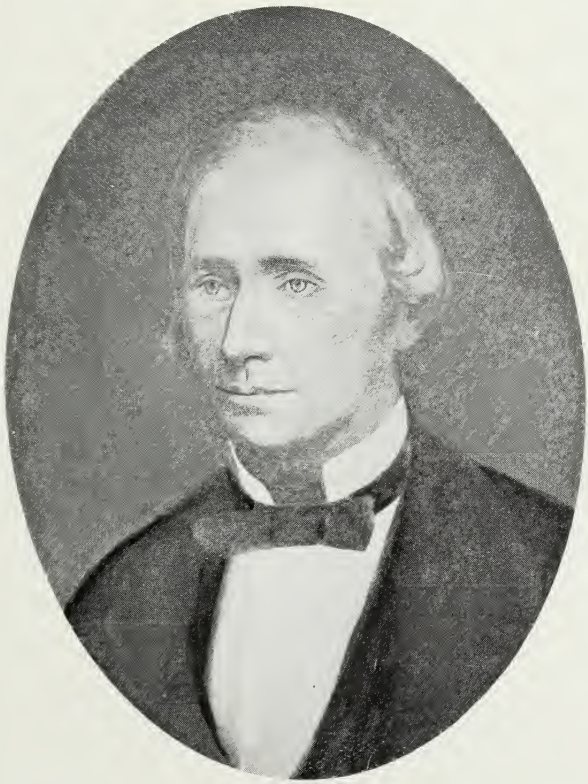
In 1857 died Brother Jerome O'Connor in his 81st year. It will be remembered that he, in conjunction with Brother John B. Leonard, was the first Founder of the Christian Brothers in Cork. Their humble beginning was in a small schoolhouse in a back lane at the rere of the Cathedral, but Providence blessed this small mustard seed, and willed thus to see its growth expand to a tree of noble proportions and rich foliage.



James Hegarty, J.P.

BROTHER JOHN BAPTIST LEONARD did not long survive his first devoted co-partner. In 1858 he was seized with his last illness, and died in the 73rd year of his age. The North Monastery ever fondly and reverently regards him as its corner stone—its father, its founder. To him more than to any other individual does it owe its birth, growth, and present maturity. For 47 years he devoted to its interests his heart, energies and talents. He was a man of uncommon faith, masculine courage, firm resolve, unshaken trust in Divine Providence,

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and in his work. When we consider the dark days in which he lived, the roughness and paucity of his materials, the smallness of his numbers, the cold encouragement of the many, the timid sympathy of the few, the blighting criticism of others; the almost hopeless and barren soil which he undertook to till, the stubborn resistance he often met with from the ignorant and undisciplined youth of those far-off days, whom he sought to benefit, instruct, and subdue; and then the unlooked-for results of all this as seen in the history of to-day—we must justly allot John Leonard a place among the most notable citizens and benefactors of Cork City.

He had the happiness before he died of seeing the completion of the beautiful Community Chapel of Our Lady's Mount. This he regarded as the crowning work of his life. He had commenced it ten years before, but it was not till the year before his death that he saw it finished. Miss Braddon, the novelist, thus speaks of her visit to this Oratory:—"The Oratory of the Christian Brothers' Monastery, Cork, is the prettiest Roman Chapel I ever remember seeing. It is of Grecian design, and its prevailing tone is purest white. There is no colour save the rich lines of the stained glass windows. The altar, altar candlesticks and tabernacle are of Carrara marble. This universal whiteness, and the absence of gilding, gaudiness, or frippery of any kind, give an indescribable charm to the small temple. Its only decorations are three fine copies of famous paintings."

The Oratory, Christian Brothers' Monastery, Cork.

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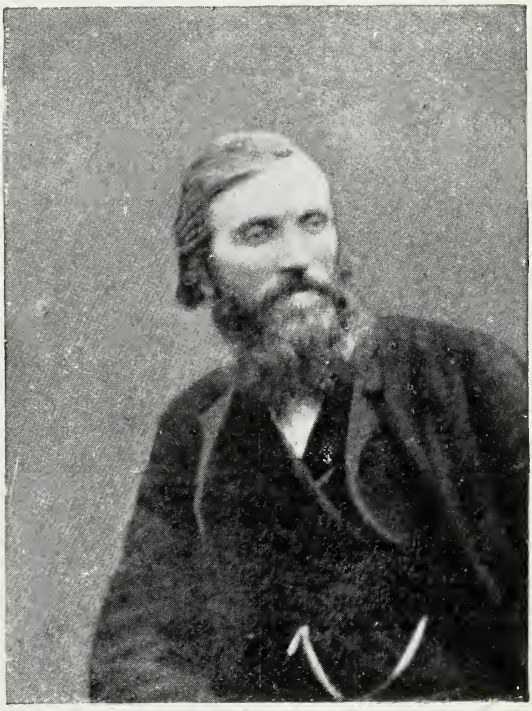
First Class. *Terms Moderate.*

The altar to which Miss Braddon refers—an exquisite work of art—was the gift of Mr. Patrick Scannell, of Douglas Street, who still, to-day, as of old, is among the esteemed friends of the Brothers. The paintings over the altar were painted by a distinguished Cork artist, Richard Lyster—a bosom friend of Mr. Denny Lane.

P. J. Scannell, Sculptor.



Richard Lyster, Artist.

In the early sixties the throng of pupils was such that additional accommodation became imperative in all three establishments. Two Cork citizens came to the rescue—Messrs. Jeremiah Buckley, of Shandon Street, and James Hegarty, of Blarney Street. The latter gentleman enlarged the Blarney Street Schools at his own expense, and Mr. Buckley added on the two wings to the already existing central block at Our Lady's Mount.

Among the group of benefactors to the Schools in those years special mention should be made of:—The Rev. Canon Foley, Adm., Cathedral, and subsequently P.P. of Douglas; Messrs. Jeremiah Buckley, John Fitzgerald; James, William, and Patrick Hegarty, J.P.'s. The latter three formed the famous County of Cork tanners, known as "Messrs. Hegarty Brothers," whose ample fortunes seemed to have been amassed only to benefit and enrich the poor. These gentlemen never tired advocating the claims of the Brothers, and enlisting the sympathy of the

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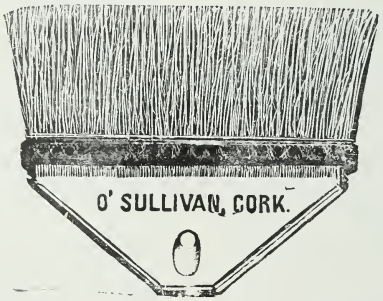

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FOUR REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BUY OUR TEAS—

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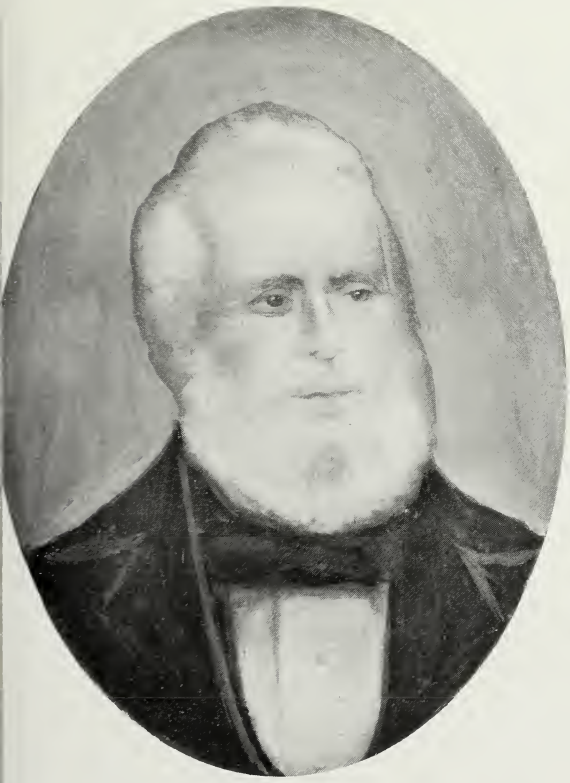
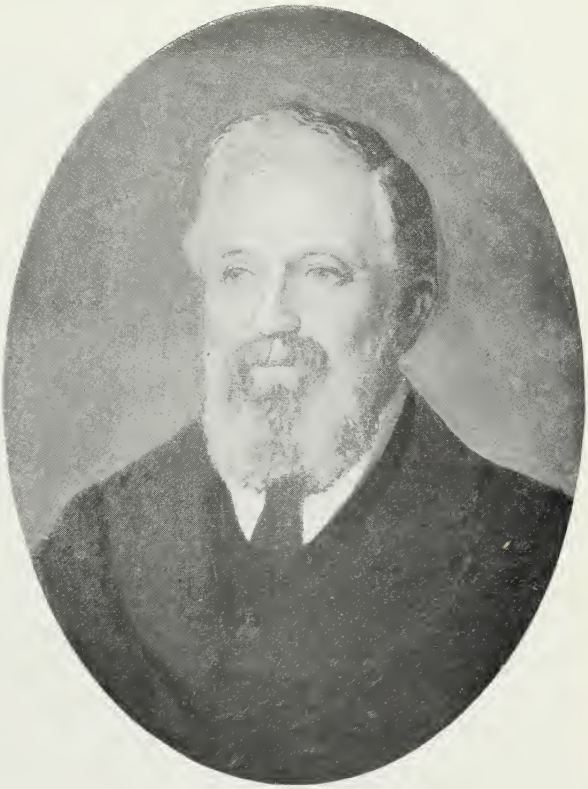
public on their behalf, and those of their young charge. They descanted on the marked improvements observable in the youth of the City, and the credit the Community and their pupils were to it.

Through the material aid thus afforded by these and other friends, and the efficient staff of Brothers, then conducting the Schools, among whom we might mention:—Brothers James Bernard Duggan, Alphonsus Dwyer, Louis Doyle, John Wiseman, &c., with whom was associated one then young, but who was destined to outstrip them all—Brother James Dominic Burke—the three establishments attained a standard of educational excellence to which even in our time we may look back with pride.



Jeremiah Buckley.



Thomas Lyons, J.P. (2).

In 1866 the Lords of the Admiralty visited the Schools. They were accompanied by the Mayor, Francis Lyons; the High Sheriff, Thomas Lyons; the City representative in Parliament, John Francis Maguire, M.P., and Nicholas D. Murphy. They all expressed great pleasure at what they saw and heard—being particularly struck at the extent of the buildings, the large attendance, and the order and discipline which prevailed.

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One want was sensibly felt—viz., a large examination, or Art Hall. This was supplied in 1868 through the munificence of Mr. J. Buckley, of Shandon Street, who expended £2,000 in its erection. This great liberal benefactor died in 1869. To him the Cork boys owe a deep debt of gratitude for the many educational facilities they now enjoy.

AS soon as the Art Hall was opened, a Drawing and Art Class was organised, and yearly exhibitions of the pupils' work were held, to which the public were invited. Among those who took a special interest in this branch was Mr. John Francis Maguire, M.P. for Cork—brother of the Right Rev. Monsignor Maguire, P.P., St. Finbar's He was Mayor of Cork for three successive years, and during his Mayoralty unveiled the Father Mathew Statue in Patrick Street, 1862. He was a brilliant orator, and during the 25 years he was

Art School.

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Member of Parliament, his personal worth, his high moral character, and his splendid eloquence, won for him the respect and admiration of the British House of Commons, and the personal acquaintance and friendship of the great statesman, Mr. Gladstone. He, Mr. Maguire, never failed to be present at the Exhibition of Drawings, and on those occasions delivered a suitable address—pointing out to the

John Francis Maguire, M.P.
Mayor of Cork, 1862—1864. M.P., City of Cork, 1865—1872.

pupils the immense advantages they enjoyed, and the high future prospects which the cultivation of art opened up to them. The Maguire family were among the earliest friends of the Brothers. The M.P's father was associated in the silk trade with Mr. Michael Paul O'Riordan in this City, ere the latter joined the North Monastery in 1821, and who later on, as we have already seen, was elected the second Superior General of the Order in 1841.

Very Rev. Theobald Mathew,
"The Apostle of Temperance."

One of the most eloquent and memorable utterances ever delivered by a public man in favour of the Brothers was that pronounced by Mr. John Francis Maguire—then a young counsellor—at a remarkable meeting held at the North Monastery in 1843. Some interesting personages were present:—Very Rev. Theobald Mathew, William Fagan, Esq., Mayor-Elect, and author of the "Life of Daniel O'Connell"; Fathers Bartholomew Russell, O.P., Brown and Foley; Counsellor Walsh, Richard Casey, Esq., T.C., J. Dwyer, Esq., T.C., etc. The speaker said:—"I am happy in being asked by the Committee to respond to a sentiment in which my whole heart is enlisted. I have, during the short course of my career, addressed many and varied assemblies, but I do confess that never did I address any assembly with feelings of purer gratification or prouder triumph than I do at this present moment; for here I stand in the very temple of learning. What associations and memories hallow these sacred walls, consecrated to the loftiest charity, to the holiest duty, to the education of the lowly and the young, to the ennobling of the man, and the forming of the Christian. What a noble spectacle—one which enlists the noblest sympathies of the human heart—is presented in an institution such as those Monastery Schools, reared up in the midst of a poor and populous City, as a barrier against ignorance and all its train of mean and revolting vices. Talk not of grandeur, reared up perhaps upon prostrate slavery, or heroism scarcely separated from bloodthirstiness—give me the grandeur of the mind of man emancipated from the degrading fetters of class, and asserting its birthright of dominion over the regions of thought as over the wide extent of creation. Give me the heroism of the mild, humble, pious servant of God, who having sternly flung from him the vanities and fascinations of the world, and shutting up his heart against the voice of gentle affection, devotes his whole life, with a noble, heroic perseverance, to the culture and refinement of the humble and the lowly, whose sphere for future activity and enterprise is extended a hundredfold by the liberal education they receive at the hands of humanity's friends—the Brothers of the Christian Schools. That priceless boon is not the only gift which the boundless benevolence of those good men pour out upon the student trained under their fostering care. No, he is enriched with their love and guarded by their watchfulness, which follow him silently through the busy haunts of men, pursuing him in every avocation, encouraging him up every successive elevation in society, or cheering him under every pressure of adversity—at all time shielding, comforting, and protecting."

The veteran patriot, Mr. John Martin, M.P., and Mr. Joseph Ronayne, M.P. for Cork, visited the Schools in 1873. The pupils sang some of the charming melodies of their native land, which so stirred the venerable patriot that tears coursed down his cheeks, for he had just returned from long years of exile and imprisonment abroad.

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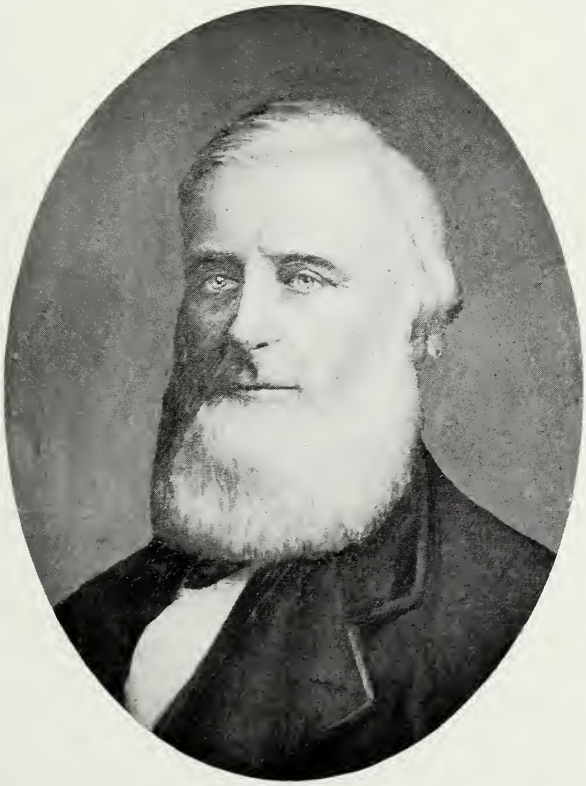
If you have a tender foot or suffer from Corns, we guarantee to give you comfort, as we fit up last specially for tender feet.
We also make Riveted Work at Lower Prices, and keep all sizes in stock.

Support Local Industry.

THE name of Mr. Joseph Ronayne, M.P. for Cork, deserves more than a passing allusion. He, Mr. Charles Stuart Parnell, and Mr. Joseph Biggar were the most noted figures in Irish History in the seventies and eighties. It was "Joe Ronayne," as he was affectionately called, who first taught Parnell the secret power and method of "parliamentary obstruction tactics," which proved a far more novel and effective weapon than even the strength of organisation, or all the powers of eloquence, to force the British Legislature to lend an ear to the tale of Irish



Joseph Philip Ronayne, M.P.
(*City of Cork, 1872—1876*).

grievances, and to redress them. He was the close friend of Mr. Denny Lane of Cork—both of whom paid frequent visits to the Brothers. A letter from "Joe," dated 18th March, 1874, to Brother Duggan is worth reproducing :—

"I intended to be present at your examinations, invited or not, but I have got a summons from our new Irish Party which will compel me to be in London on Thursday. I would not wait an invitation, as I look upon the Christian

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Brothers as belonging to Catholicity and Ireland—almost synonymous terms; and I would claim, by right of representing both, to be with you without any invitation, a claim that I am sure would not be disputed by any friends at the North Monastery.

"When I sought the representation of Cork, and had emblazoned on my banner the fine sentiment of Lacordaire—'that the first duty of man was to recognise his God, the next to defend his Country and assert her rights'—I know no institution in the country where that sentiment is as thoroughly understood

Rev. Brother J. B. Duggan.

and so practically carried out as in that of the Christian Brothers, presided over by one upon whose shoulders has fallen the mantle of John Leonard, Catholic and patriot, and not the less Catholic because he was a patriot, but the more. . . I will ask you therefore to accept a cheque for £50 to purchase such instruments as are required for your Science Classes . . . I believe no money could be so well expended as that of assisting the Irish people and maintaining their faith and nationality.—J. P. Ronayne."

Miss Braddon, the popular authoress, visited the North Monastery in June,

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1874. In a London paper she says: "Next morning we devoted to a visit to the Monastery of the Christian Brothers (Cork), a fine large building, magnificently situated on a hill above the city. It is a scholastic establishment where the children of the poor and struggling classes receive a most admirable education from a Brotherhood who devote their lives and energies to this one task, and with them the work is really a labour of love."

In 1876, the Golden Jubilee of Rev. Br. James B. Duggan was made the occasion of a joyful and brilliant function. The Bishop, thirty-eight priests, a large number of lay friends, and Brothers from the surrounding Communities were present. High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan at ten o'clock, after which appropriate addresses were delivered by the Bishop, the Brothers, and pupils. Among the Jubilee presents were a set of vestments, a fine statue of the Sacred Heart, and a church gong. From that date the Ven. Brother's health gradually declined, and on his resignation of the office of Director, Brother James D. Burke was appointed his successor. In 1882 the Ven. Jubilarian passed to his eternal reward. His obsequies were of a most solemn and impressive character.

ELOQUENT tribute has been paid elsewhere to Br. Burke's work—the large share he took in the educational life of the City is too well known to need recounting here. It needs but to chronicle in brief outline the chief events that marked his administration of the North Monastery. One thought only seemed to absorb the good man's mind, viz., to instruct and elevate the boy, and the school was the place to effect it. He knew that the clearest and quickest organ through which knowledge comes to us is the eye. A School Museum was required, and Mr. Burke, with his usual energy and tenacity of purpose, set about procuring one—a most difficult task.

A Museum is not the product of a year, nor even of a lifetime. He spent his brief holidays travelling through Ireland, England and Scotland, visiting the various museums, colleges, public institutions, workshops and great manufactories. He held interviews with the heads of these institutions and firms, who were impressed with the noble object of his mission and the intelligence and benevolence of the man, and willingly presented him gratis with many specimens of worth, from the raw to the most finished article.

These comprise almost every sample of embroidery, lace, and crochet work; cotton, linen, woollen, and silk fabrics; paper making; clay, pottery, and enamelling; every species of stone, marble, crystal; ores of every kind and their process of development; cutlery in all its branches; productions of lithography, printing, stereotypes, electro-plates, &c.; delf, china; articles manufactured from hemp, jute, bog-oak, straw-plait, &c. The cases of stuffed wild birds and animals, from the robin to the eagle, from the squirrel to the elephant, deserve special notice. These, and as many more, were gradually collected, arranged according to their

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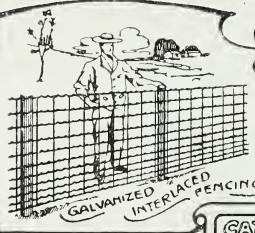
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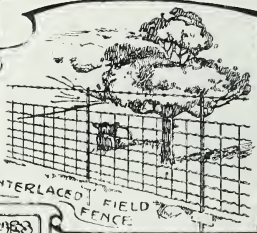
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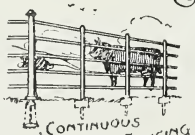
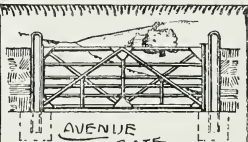

CONTINUOUS BAR FENCING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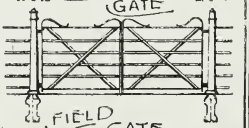
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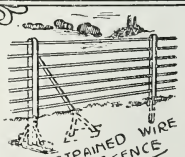
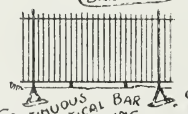
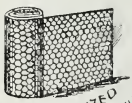

STRAINED WIRE FENCE


CONTINUOUS VERTICAL BAR RAILING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class and genus, set in suitable glass cases, and fixed round the walls of the sixteen class rooms.

The educative value of a museum does not altogether depend on the number or the variety of its exhibits, but on the taste shown in the selection, and the order and judgment displayed in its arrangement. A collection of curios and bric-a-brac may amuse, but it hardly instructs. This principle was kept in view by Mr. Burke—all the cases and sections exhibiting a classification, relationship and sequence, much like the flowers and plants in a conservatory or the natural location of books in a well-assorted library.

During Mr. Burke's term of office several Educational Commissions held sittings in Cork City, to all which he was invited. His examination on these occasions is highly instructive. The views he held and the schemes of instruction he propounded for the betterment, especially of the sons of the working classes, were so practical and progressive as to elicit the warm approval of the members of the Commission. These officials visited and examined the Peacock Lane Schools in 1879. The report which they subsequently forwarded will be read with interest, as it contains the judgment of these experts both on the course of instruction and the proficiency of the pupils thirty years ago.

In May, 1881 the report of the Endowed Schools Commission was published. In the previous year this Commission, consisting of the Earl of Ross, Dr. Meredith, Mr. Moore and others, visited the North Monastery and examined the pupils. The report thus speaks of their visit:—"Of the excellent and truly useful schools conducted by the Christian Brothers this is, I think, the most efficient both as regards the course of instruction, which includes English, French, mathematics, experimental science and music, and the quality of instruction given in these various subjects. I only regret the limited time at my disposal prevented me from examining a greater number of pupils. The senior class, twenty in number, I examined in English, algebra, dictation, grammar and geography. In dictation 15 boys made no mistake, and no boy had more than two. In arithmetic, including long money tots, the answering was all that could be desired; whilst in geography, grammar, Euclid, and algebra, the answering was excellent. No praise can be too high for the neatness and legibility of the handwriting, which, in my opinion, is brought to a greater degree of perfection in these schools than in any other in Ireland. The other boys that I examined—about 100 in number—answered most creditably. All the boys in the senior room are instructed in experimental science, and about 100 are taught French. By the indefatigable zeal of the Brothers of this Order they have built a physical laboratory and a drawing school, both well adapted for the purpose. After careful examination of the instruction in the Lab., I came to the conclusion that they were all well chosen to give the pupils a thorough knowledge of the principles of science, and also to awaken in them a lively interest in the subject. The singing, in parts and by note, both of sacred and secular music, was beyond all praise. So far as I could judge, nothing is left undone by the Christian Brothers to bring the school as nearly as possible to a state of perfection."

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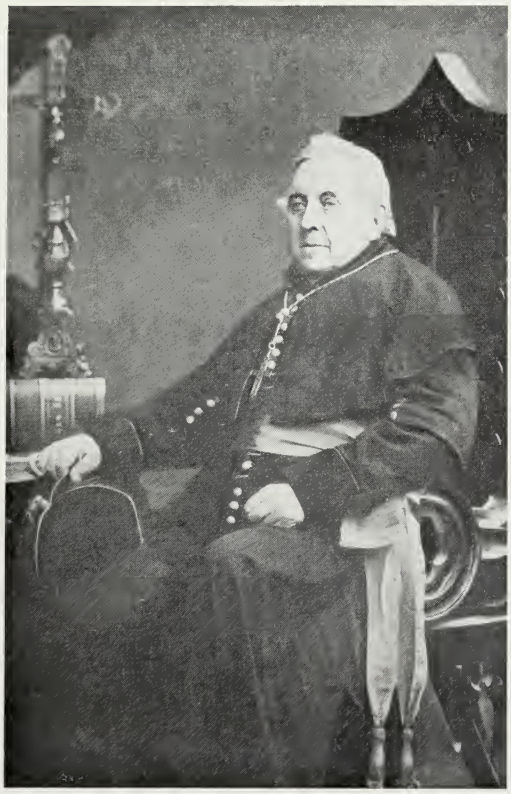
THE choice of a Coadjutor to the Bishop of Cork, the Most Rev. Dr. Delany, in 1884, was one of absorbing interest and concern to the clergy and laity of the diocese; and the appointment of the Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan to that exalted office by Pope Leo. XIII. was hailed with unusual satisfaction. The fact that he was a Corkman, and the son of a Corkman, enhanced his personal and pastoral qualifications, and rendered the selection eminently popular. Dr. O'Callaghan was born in the South Parish in the year 1839. He was a pupil of the North Monastery till his sixteenth year, when he and some



Most Rev. William Delany, D.D.

other youths left with the view of joining the Dominican Order. His career was rapid, and when maturity of years gave solidity to his judgment and character, he was entrusted with some of the most responsible posts in his Order. The famous Father Tom Burke was his Master in Philosophy in Rome.

In 1873 he was appointed Prior of San Clemente in the Holy City, where his virtues and adminstrative talents soon recommended him to the notice of the

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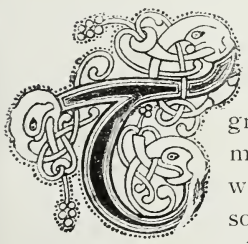
Propaganda. In 1884 he was appointed Coadjutor to the Most Rev. Dr. Delany —then in failing health. His consecration took place on the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul, in the church of San Clemente, which was splendidly decorated for the occasion. Cardinal Simeoni, Prefect of the Propaganda, was celebrant, assisted by Monsignor Salua, O.P., and Dr. Kirby of the Irish College. Dr. O'Callaghan arrived in Cork on the 2nd of August, and was enthusiastically received by the people. One of his first acts on his arrival in Cork was to visit his Alma Mater—the North Monastery—where the Brothers and their pupils evinced the liveliest joy and welcome as they knelt to receive the blessing of their new Bishop.

Since his elevation to the See of Finnbar his Lordship has ever manifested the keenest interest in all that concerns the well-being of the Schools, has never failed to be present at the yearly examinations, distribution of prizes, and on all public and private occasions when the welfare and honour of the Brothers were in question his presence or influence has been felt. As a mark of his Lordship's appreciation of the work done by the Brothers for the youth of Cork, he in 1879 entrusted the College at St. Patrick's Place to their management. That his confidence has not been misplaced is shown by the high state of efficiency that institution has attained.



THE Bazaar of 1889: the word itself gives little inspiration either to prose or poetry. But here it stands for and represents a great event in connection with the North Monastery, and furnishes material for an interesting chapter of its history. This Bazaar was held in 1889, and Mr. Burke, as usual, was its inspirer and soul. The object of the Bazaar was set forth in a circular addressed to the people:—"The Monastery Schools were approaching their hundredth year; the Branch Establishments were threequarters of a century old; age, wear and tear were visibly marked on the buildings, which here and there were hastening to decay. Repairs, remodelling, and extension were needed; the Brothers had incurred heavy liabilities for their upkeep, and, in consequence, large funds were required."

Moreover, the march of education demanded modern equipment, if the Brothers were to hold their place in the race. The least burdensome, the most promising, certainly the most acceptable, way to meet all this was the holding of a Bazaar. It was decided to hold it in October of that year.

The enterprise was gigantic: in its features, character and scope it was wholly unlike any that preceded it in the country. Eight million tickets were circulated and sent broadcast to the ends of the earth; one hundred of the most influential citizens, Catholics and non-Catholics, formed the General Committee, and twelve of these the working section. The Cork ladies would not be outdone, and vied with the gentlemen in the promotion of the great movement. They formed themselves into sections and Committees for the erection and furnishing

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of stalls, show-rooms, &c., in which were displayed every conceivable article of design, ornament, wear, and manufacture which meet the eye, or tempt the purchaser in the streets of our great cities.

The City Firms generously contributed a large variety of costly prizes, and when the show opened in the Corn Exchange on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th October, it looked a huge mart. Eyewitnesses declare that the concourse of people exceeded anything previously seen at any public function. The city newspapers—the "Examiner," "Herald," "Constitution"—rendered valuable services, and the names of Messrs. Barry Egan, Richard Bransfield, Eugene O'Neill, Patrick O'Leary, William Magrath, Guy & Co., Barry Sheehan, John Flynn, William McMullen, P. O'Hea, F. Allman, John Horgan, D. F. Lucey, T. J. Waters, T. Perry, D. St. J. Sheehan, C. J. Dunn, &c.; and among the ladies—Mrs. (or Misses) O'Callaghan, Saunders, Mahony, Murphy, Reardon, McDonnell, Ahern, Burrows, Moynihan, Hegarty, Kearney, Ryan, Madden, Barry, Lane, O'Keeffe, Burke, Whitelegge, Percival, Clarke, Sullivan, McMahon, Heron, Cussen, &c., are here gratefully recorded as among the most prominent and zealous co-operators

Committee of the Brother Burke Memorial Bazaar.

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Herr Gmür. P. J. O'Leary (*Hon. Sec.*). J. P. Harty.

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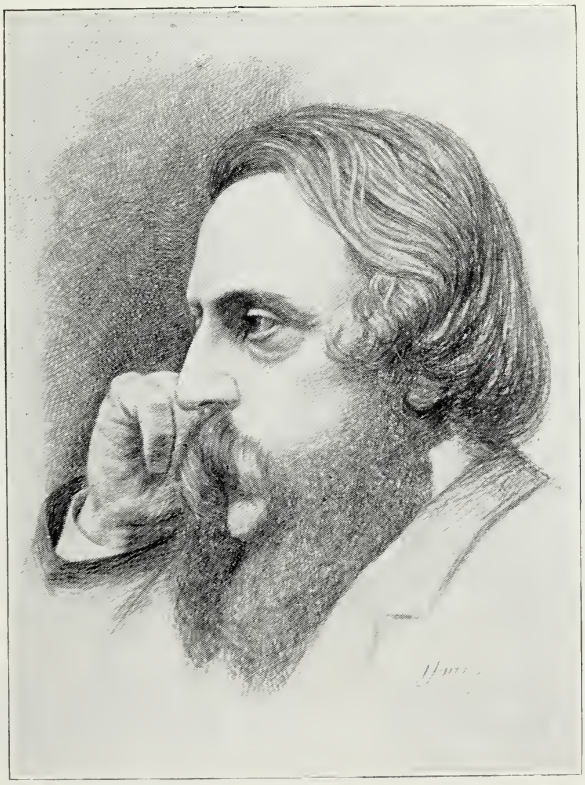
in effecting its success. The gross returns amounted to £10,600. The net amount, all expenses being paid, was £4,500. This sum enabled the Brothers to meet the exigencies of the Schools and to place them in that position of strength and effectiveness in which we see them to-day. The Bazaar was one of the most eloquent and striking testimonies of the devotion of the Cork people to the North Monastery.

In 1890, Brother Burke was raised to the position of Assistant to the Superior-General of the Order—Rev. Br. R. A. Maxwell. This required his removal to Dublin. The Citizens, by public meetings and the presentation of addresses, testified their appreciation of his services, as well as their profound grief at his departure. However, his absence lasted only a few years, when he returned to the home of his affection—the City by the Lee.



Denny Lane, M.A.

In 1895 the Citizens of Cork lost a highly educated and estimable man by the death of Mr. Denny Lane, M.A. He was an intimate friend of Br. Burke's. One of his greatest pleasures was to help the old pupils in whom he saw evidences of talent. He was a frequent visitor at the North Monastery Schools, and took the greatest interest in their progress and success.

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It was long a subject of regret to Brother Burke that no memorial existed to Gerald Griffin, so with his usual energy and tact he set about the erection of the "Gerald Griffin Memorial School," considering that no more useful or appropriate tribute could be raised to the memory of the gifted son of Erin who had devoted his brilliant talents to the work of education. Aided by the contributions of many friends and admirers of Gerald Griffin all the world over, Br. Burke was able to bring his undertaking to a completion.

"The Gerald Griffin Memorial School."

THE year 1902 marked completion of Brother Burke's fiftieth year as a Christian Brother, and as a Christian Educator. So auspicious an occasion was availed of by the citizens of Cork to express their appreciation and gratitude for his invaluable services in the cause of education, and the benefits he conferred upon the City. A public meeting was summoned by the Lord Mayor, Ald. Edward Fitzgerald, to inaugurate a suitable testimonial to Brother Burke's worth. A Science School connected with the North Monastery was agreed upon. The project was warmly taken up, and the very handsome "Memorial School" which now stands on the grounds of Our Lady's Mount will

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for all time testify to the depth and intensity of the feeling with which Brother Burke was regarded by the people of Cork. How little did the good Brother himself and his friends think when erecting his Memorial School that it would be his Memorial indeed, and in the saddest meaning of the word.

His death on the 23rd March, 1904, was the result of a car accident. In crossing one of the thoroughfares, his sight being somewhat impaired, he was unable to notice the rapid approach of a horse and car. He was knocked down, and the driver had not time to pull up the car before one of the wheels passed over his body. He was picked up insensible. His old pupil and friend, Rev. P. A. Roche, who happened to be passing at the time, administered absolution before he was conveyed to the North Infirmary. Here he lingered for a week, when his soul winged its way to the throne of Him who made it.

He joined the Order in 1852, and during the space of over fifty years, with the exception of a brief interval, he was attached to the Cork Community. His life and labours for the youth of the "Faire Citie" are so well known that it is needless to descant further on them here. As an educationalist and popular lecturer he had few equals. He looked a hundred years ahead of his time in the adoption of methods, systems, and apparatus.

Unaided by any State funds, and long before Technical Education Acts were placed on the statute book, he collected his magnificent school museums, which Royal Commissioners have pronounced not only unequalled, but almost impossible to equal. He taught science forty years ago on the very lines which have been lately adopted in every school in the country, and with the aid of generous friends equipped the Science Hall with a collection of apparatus for the study of every branch of physics. We might quote many instances of the great admiration expressed for Brother Burke by men whose fame extends far beyond the shores of Ireland. The most eminent authority on the Manual Training Commission remarked to his fellow-Commissioners on the occasion of their visit to the North Monastery: "Instead of an Irish Commission visiting England in search of information, an English Commission ought to be sent over to Cork to visit the North Monastery." Perhaps the most striking instance of the esteem in which Brother Burke was held by eminent scientists was that of Professor Armstrong. This gentleman, who was the President of the Education Section of the British Association, was presiding at a Conference of Science Teachers in Dublin. The Conference lasted three days. On the second day Professor Armstrong left the Conference to its own devices, and ran down to the Cork Exhibition, which was then being held. Here he met Brother Burke, who had the same day the pleasure of showing him through the North Monastery Schools. Professor Armstrong reappeared at the Conference at its final sitting, and advised the teachers present to stop talking and go down to Cork to study the work carried on in Brother Burke's School. No higher compliment could be paid to Brother Burke. It will serve to show the wonderful impression he made on all with whom he came in contact.

Professor Corby said of him at a public meeting: "Brother Burke was a man of vast intellectual sagacity; he was a man who had drunk deep at the

Specimens of Pupils' work, Gerald Griffin Memorial Technical School, North Monastery.
These exhibits obtained a Gold Medal and Special Diploma of Merit at the United Provinces Exhibition, India.

Class at Manual Instruction, Gerald Griffin Memorial School.

Manual Instruction, Gerald Griffin Memorial School, North Monastery.

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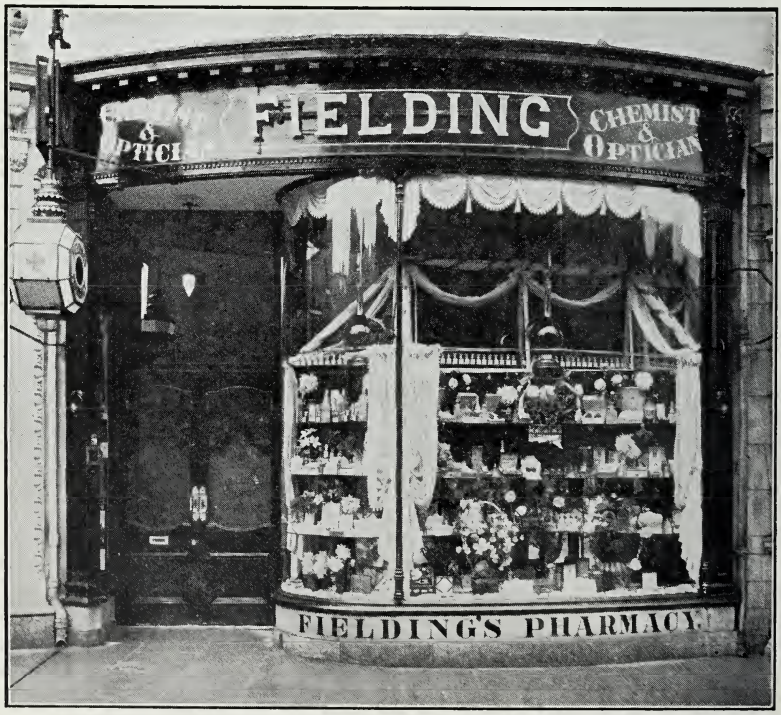

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Pupils at Work in Science Laboratory, Cork International Exhibition, 1902.

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Pierian spring, and there were few branches of science that had not been tapped by his inquiring mind. He was imbued with the kindliest Christian and humane spirit, and he devoted his whole life and talents to the education of the children of the poor." One of the ablest educationalists of the day said in the hearing of the writer: "Not Cork, but Ireland, has lost a great man in Brother Burke."

Rev. Brother Dominic Burke.

He was very fond of the Irish Melodies, and Tom Moore was his favourite poet. School-work was a passion with him. He had a high ideal of the Christian Brothers' calling, and never tired of inculcating to the young Brothers and the novices the nature and the elevating responsibilities of their life. Simplicity,

Funeral Procession of Rev. Br. J. D. Burke.

frankness, and a tender love for children were marked features in his character, and all care and gloom was dispelled at their approach. Sir Horace Plunkett once said of him: "'Tis a pleasure to observe Brother Burke among a group of boys." But not the Scientist, the popular Lecturer, but the "Christian Educator" is his epitaph. Perhaps not within living memory has such an outburst of sorrow and sympathy been witnessed in Cork as on the occasion of his obsequies. Though Saturday, all business was suspended from 12 o'clock till 4; and thousands of mourners followed the wreath-covered coffin to the Cemetery of the North Monastery. To those who were acquainted with the deceased the following lines may serve to recall his memory.

HE stood above the middle height,
Of portly build, but footstep light:
And nature's frankness blent with grace
Played ever on his open face;
So when you came within its view
His winning smiles were all for you.
But Nature showed him at his best
When to his heart the children pressed;
And on his brow all trouble died
If he but saw a little child.

These lines portray the gentle heart.
His mental gifts—ah! what a mart:
He was a wondrous magazine
Of varied knowledge, seldom seen
Among the ranks of those we know
As learned men, or titled so.
But in his calling high he stood
Above all compeers, great and good;
And seer-like viewed the coming day
When systems old must soon give way
To newer methods wielding power,
Yet lighter make the school-boy's hour.
And thus his mind and searching glance
Moved ever forward to advance,
To elevate, refine the boy,—
One fortune ruled their common joy.

The school-room was his element.
'Twas there he toiled and would be spent;

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CORK.

Nor warrior looked with prouder mien
Upon his hosts in battle scene
Than Dominic Burke, when round him clung
The happy forms of the young.
And listless, dull, and sightless he
Who Lady's Mount would come to see,
If back returning felt no thrill
Of admiration for him fill
His soul, on seeing what was done
By Education's worthy son.

At seventy-two fell Brother Burke—
Struck sudden in his noble Work!
As when the steel has pierced the heart,
All o'er the face and ev'ry part
A chilly paleness quick sets in,
To show that all is dead within;
So Cork—his death shot through her soul,
And over all a stillness stole;
And on each face sat silent grief—
Sat listless, spurning vain relief.

The funeral wail—the bier—the throng,
The mournful march the streets along;
The funeral bell—that told who fell,
We may recall, but fail to tell!
That face is gone that lit the room,
That voice is hushed within the tomb;
That head so massive, clear and grand,
Rests 'neath the sod where now we stand;
That heart so warm, kind, and true,
Lies cold beneath that little yew;
That tongue, that roused the Irish boy
To raise his aspirations high,
Is mute—chill March records the day
It faltered, failed, and died away.

A saintly group around him too
Sleep 'neath the grass and autumn dew;
Whose modest tombstones tell their name—
Their lives are not unknown to fame.
And should affection seek a vent
To show a tender sentiment,
Depart not from this hallowed sod,
Before you pray, "Oh! rest them, God!"

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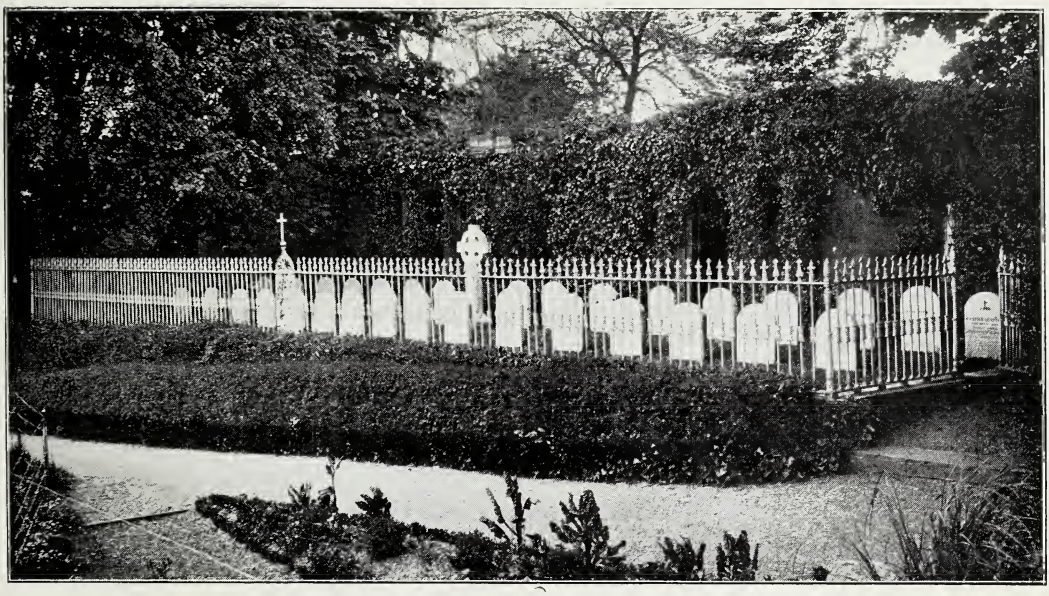

North Monastery Cemetery.

IN a quiet, sequestered spot, shaded by trees and evergreen shrubs, on the west side of the Monastery grounds, lies the Cemetery. It is rectangular in shape, and measures about 70 feet by 25 feet in breadth. A pretty iron railing, painted white, borders it on three sides; the fourth is enclosed by a wall ten feet high, surmounted by a cornice richly festooned with ivy. An Irish stone cross stands in the centre, and the head-stones, thirty-two in number, face the rising sun. These grave tablets, as well as the inscriptions carved on them, are of the plainest. They tell the name, age, and date of death of the deceased, with a "Requiescat in pace"—no more.

Almost every span of manhood's life is here recorded, from 19 to 82 years. One of the first pioneers—Br. J. McDermott—died at the age of 22. Here peacefully lie the Founders—John and Patrick Leonard and J. O'Connor. Here Gerald Griffin, fleeing the turmoil of London life and the blaze of literary fame, sought and found peace and rest. Beside them, too, linked in brotherly embrace in death as in life, repose Bros. Bernard Duggan, John Wiseman, Alphonsus Dwyer, Dominic Burke, Thomas Leahy, and Joseph Ryan—worthy sons of the venerable founders.

The burial ground, within and without, is kept with scrupulous neatness; and, as it lies alongside the pathway that leads to the schools and the city, the steps of the passer-by are sometimes arrested, and his thoughts gently drawn away from life's cares to ponder awhile on our fugitive existence and on the lessons which the humble, the great, and good, who like him, "once were," here

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silently address to him. From many lands people visit this little Cemetery, and having lingered awhile with reverence and subdued demeanour, pluck a little tuft of grass or shamrock, and bear it away as a memento of their visit.

The Intermediate Education Act passed by the English Legislature for Ireland in 1879 caused a notable revolution in the school programmes and systems hitherto pursued in the public schools and colleges of Ireland. It embraced, as its name implies, a course of secular instruction—classical, literary, and scientific, lower than that of University rank, and higher than the standard aimed at in

Rev. Bro. T. Leahy

primary schools. It was a step midway leading up to University and higher education. As its scope differed little from the literary, scientific and art courses already existing in the advanced classes of the Christian Brothers' Schools throughout Ireland, and as it offered special inducements in the way of money grants and prizes to students qualified to benefit by it, and who had no adequate means to prolong their school term to benefit by the higher standards; and, in fine, as the system in nowise came in conflict with the Brothers' religious or

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national principles, they at once availed of the Act for the benefit of their pupils, and introduced it into their schools.

There were, besides, other weighty reasons for their thus acting. Had the Brothers stood aloof, and declined to adopt the new Act, there would not be wanting a host of critics who would have said—"The Irish Catholic schools are behind the age, an enemy to intellectual progress; their pupils lack mental ability, since they fear to enter the lists in open competition with non-Catholic students; they stupidly throw away the educational and monetary advantages which this system offers, and the school examinations on which they rely for public support are mere shams, and unreliable as tests of efficiency."

The Intermediate system, although adopted by all the leading schools of the country—Catholic or non-Catholic—has many defects, rather noticeable in late years, when the trend of its programme seems directed against the working-man's son. These the country alone can remedy. Yet, even in its present shifting shape, it can be made subservient to promote sound and practical education in the hands of capable managers.

The Intermediate Exams. are held yearly. Passes, book prizes, medals, and exhibitions are thrown open to competition, irrespective of creed or class, with the result that only talent, application, and effective teaching count in securing them. The successes credited to the North Monastery are so well known that beyond furnishing a brief summary it is needless to repeat them here. Suffice it to say, that it has for many years held the premier place in all Ireland, and that it has crowned a long roll of honours by bearing away **NINE SENIOR EXHIBITIONS** in 1910—the eve of its Centenary.

The "Distribution of Prizes," which usually follows the results of these examinations, is an interesting and instructive function, and forms the natural complement and crowning of the year's work. The Bishop, Clergy, the Lord Mayor, Corporation, and other representatives and friends of the Institution honor the occasion with their presence. The substantial value of the prizes may be judged from the fact that between £750 and £800 have been annually awarded by the Intermediate Board to the pupils of the North Monastery. The more distinguished candidates are photoed in groups. Their pictures are framed and hung up in the school-rooms. All this honorable recognition, while a legitimate source of satisfaction to the successful, acts as a powerful stimulus to their less successful class-fellows; and an admonition to all—"that sweet are the rewards of industry and perseverance."

The following is a brief summary of the successes achieved by the pupils of the North Monastery within the last decade of the century:—

1. Examinations under the Intermediate Board: Total number of Exhibitions and Prizes 434
   These include 244 Exhibitions and 190 Special Prizes.
2. Monetary value of above awarded to pupils £7,560
3. Medals awarded 37
4. University Examinations, Scholarships, and Exhibitions ... 17

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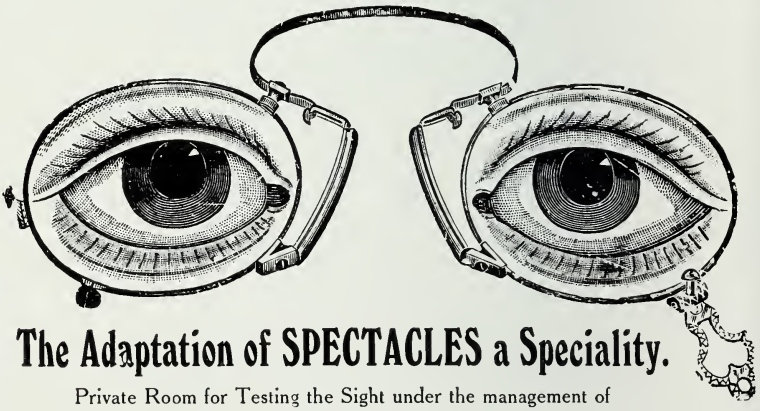

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6. King's Scholarships 6

The Technical and Agricultural Act came into operation in 1903, and the North Monastery Schools were among the first in Ireland to appreciate its advantages and to avail of them. The measure opens up a vast field of knowledge, in which physical and experimental science and manual instruction hold a prominent place. However, the erection and equipment of suitable halls to carry it on involved heavy expenditure, but the genius and energy of Brother Burke, combined with the co-operation of the citizens of Cork, were equal to the occasion, and the "Gerald Griffin School" was the result. Later on the "Burke Memorial Science School" was erected. These Halls are furnished with the most approved and up-to-date appliances, such as to excite the wonder and admiration of the visitor. Mr. Hilaire Belloc, M.P., the famous traveller, essayist, and lecturer, said of them: "I have seen nowhere anything to be compared with them."

GREAT movements, developments, and incidents of history, poetry, and fiction circle round a few prncipal characters. Great spirits are limited in number. The foreground of history is occupied by the few:—Moses, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Hannibal, Theodosius, Mahomet, Charlemagne, Napoleon, Washington. The great orators and tribunes:—Demosthenes, Cicero, Mirabeau, O'Connell; the rulers in the Cabinet and Senate:—Ximenes, Richelieu, Talleyrand, Bismarck, Gladstone; the great figures in the Church:—St. Paul, Gregory the Great, Leo the Great, Pius V., Basil, Augustine, Jerome, Aquinas, Dominic, Francis, Ignatius, Vincent, Theresa, Newman—these ruled and swayed and taught the world. So in literature, the whole interest of the Iliad is concentrated in Priam, Hector, Andromache, Ulysses; and so of the plots of Dante, Shakespeare, Milton, Scott, &c., the burden of the action in each falls on the few. So, likewise, on the stage of our modest theatre, the dramatis personae are many, but Rice, Leonard, Duggan, and Burke are the prime actors; and hence the main parts in our play or sketch are borne by one or other of them.

We now reach our own day—1907—'11. On the 30th September, 1907, the interesting function of unveiling the Bust to the late Brother D. Burke took place. It was the complement and completion of the "Brother Burke Memorial Science School." The Bust, which stands on a column of Galway granite, is carved of Pentelicon marble, and is a very fine specimen of the sculptor's art, its conception and execution reflecting the highest credit on the artist, Mr. John A. O'Connell, of our City. Mr. O'Connell has produced a very striking likeness, and has succeeded in catching that winning and benevolent expression so characteristic of Brother Burke. The bust stands in front of the Memorial Schools. It was

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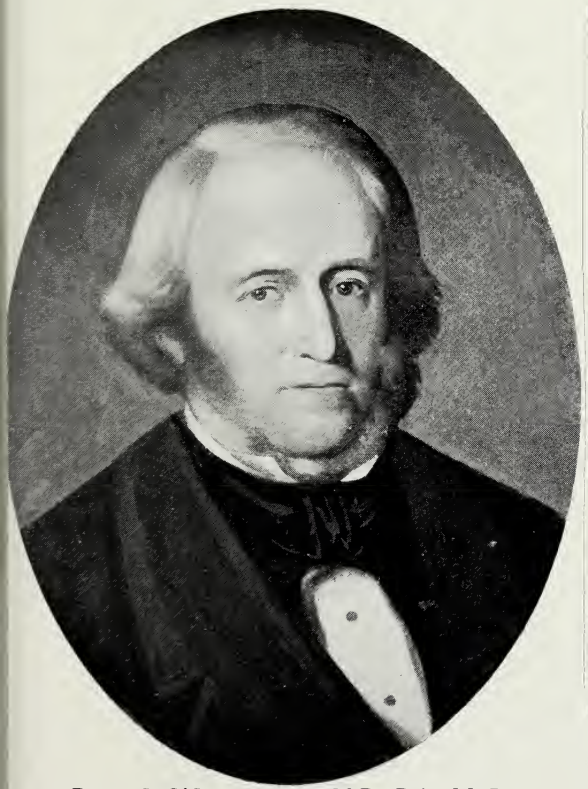
unveiled by the Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan, in the presence of a distinguished gathering of clergy, ladies and gentlemen. His Lordship and other speakers referred in very happy terms to the life and labours of the deceased, and to the appropriate "Memorial Science School" which would be a nursery of that branch of education for which Brother Burke had such a special predilection. Its design, arrangements, and equipment have entitled it to be ranked among the finest Physical and Chemical Laboratories in the United Kingdom.

The reputation of the North Monastery Schools has drawn thither, at different times, many distinguished visitors. They hail from all lands:—Ireland, England,



Denis C. O'Connor, senr., M.D., B.A., LL.D.

Thos. Condon, the Poet.

the Continent, the United States, India, Tasmania, Australia, &c.—Church dignitaries, members of His Majesty's Government and Legislature, and those of the legal, medical, educational and literary professions. We content ourselves with mentioning the more noteworthy—all of whom bore high testimony to the excellent systems pursued, the educational equipment of the Schools, and the discipline and intelligence of the pupils:—

His Eminence Cardinal V. Vanutelli, Papal Legate.
The Most Rev. Dr. Delany, Bishop of Cork.
The Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan, Bishop of Cork.

Unveiling the Bust of Brother Burke.

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His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Ireland, Archbishop, St. Paul, Minn., U.S.A.
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The Right Rev. Dr. Shiel, Bishop of Adelaide, S.A.
The Right Rev. Bishop of Hyderabad, India.
Very Rev. Theobald Mathew, Apostle of Temperance.
Daniel O'Connell, "the Liberator."
The Duke of Edinburgh.
Earl Cadogan, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
Countess Cadogan.
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Earl Spencer, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
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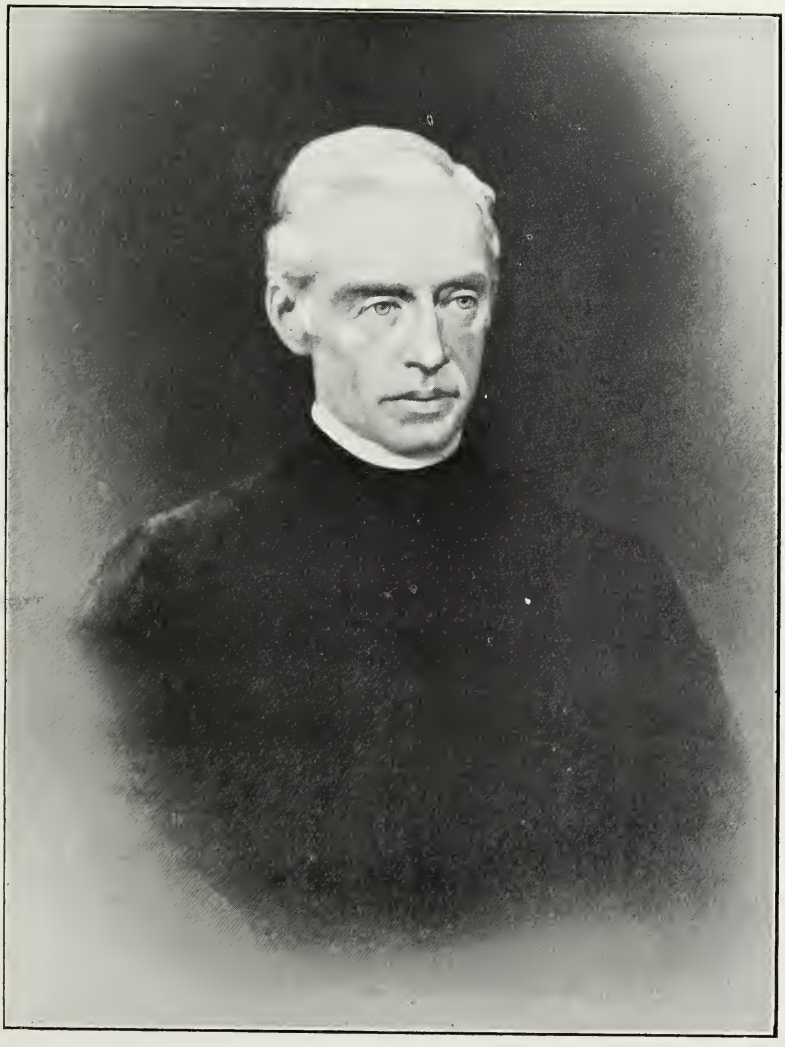

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FROM the Monastery Schools have passed away a long array of ex-pupils, many of whom have raised themselves to honorable and lucrative posts and professions in almost every walk of life, at home and abroad. The names and photos of some of the most distinguished are here inserted in this booklet.

As the last scene of a drama often produces the most pleasurable sensations, so the closing page of this little sketch is the most agreeable part of our task, viz., to pay a tribute of gratitude and thankfulness to all the benefactors

Rev. Bro. P. J. Hennessy.

and friends of the North Monastery for the acts of sympathy, loyalty and benevolence they exercised towards it in any way, or at any time, during the past century. Foremost among them are the Bishops and Clergy, the Lords Mayor and Members of the Corporation, and other public functionaries. Many of these have gone to their reward, but their names are inscribed on the "In Memoriam" page of its annals, and handed down as a legacy to the Members of the Community as having a sacred claim to their remembrance and pious suffrages. Nor have the citizens of to-day degenerated, but remembering the deeds of their fathers, continue generously to maintain the North Monastery in all that progressive

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vigour which the onward march of education requires. We end as we began—This Institution is of native growth—the joint product of the Christian Brothers' labours, the charity of the "Faire Citie," and the devotion and Gaelic talent of their youthful charge.

The work which the first founders begun, and bequeathed to their disciples, has developed and expanded in our day to an extent which they never contemplated under the able management of their successors, and the names of Brothers A. Nolan, L. Doyle, P. O'Mullane, M. T. Moylan, P. J. Hennessy, R. T. Leahy, J. A. Walker, and J. M. McNally, may be justly inscribed on the same page as the most noted of their predecessors. The founders and their immediate successors have passed away, but their monument remains, reminding us of the services it has rendered to Cork City in the most trying as in the more prosperous years of its history in the cause of Catholic education. It is just, therefore, that the citizens should avail themselves of its Centenary, to lend themselves in every suitable way to its worthy celebration.

This little Brochure now closes. It touches merely on the more prominent persons, incidents, and events in the life of the North Monastery, omitting otherwise much which though it might interest and instruct, would make the "Record" bulky and expensive. Such as it is, we present it to the public as a souvenir of the Centenary Celebration. The whole story is centred in the "Faire Citie by the pleasant waters," and while we view with pleasure its denouément, we cannot refrain from casting a grateful glance back on its chief actors, and cherishing a kind remembrance of their deeds.

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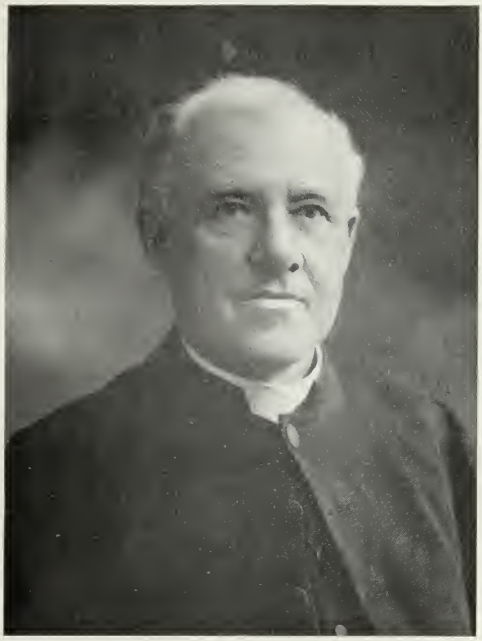

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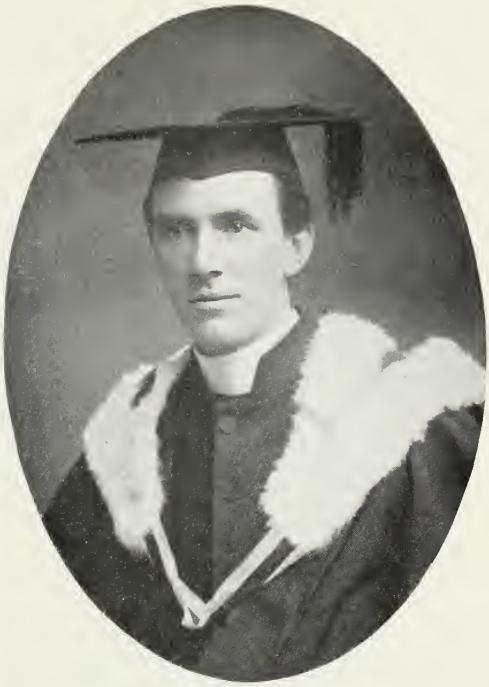

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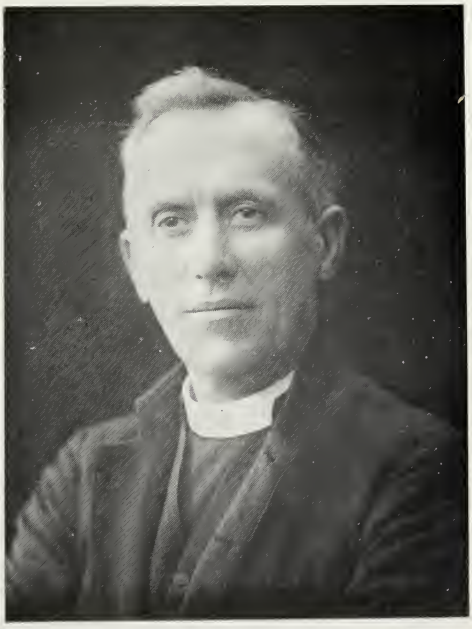

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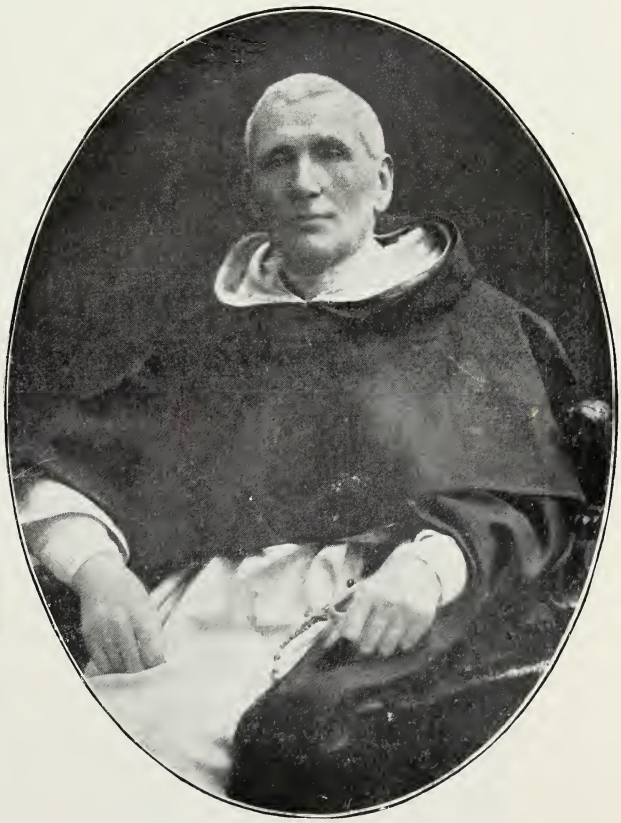

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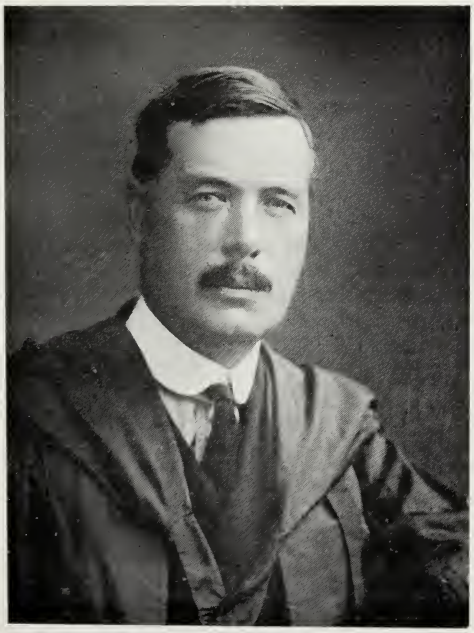

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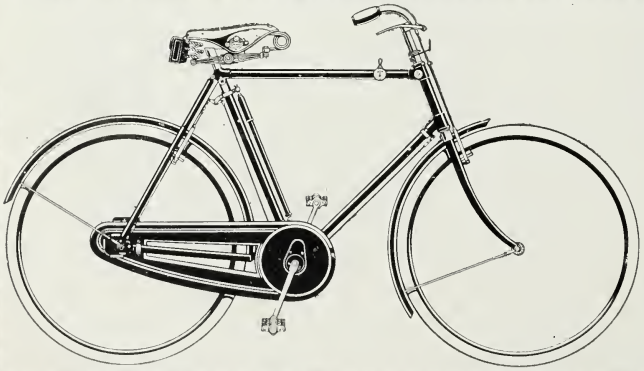

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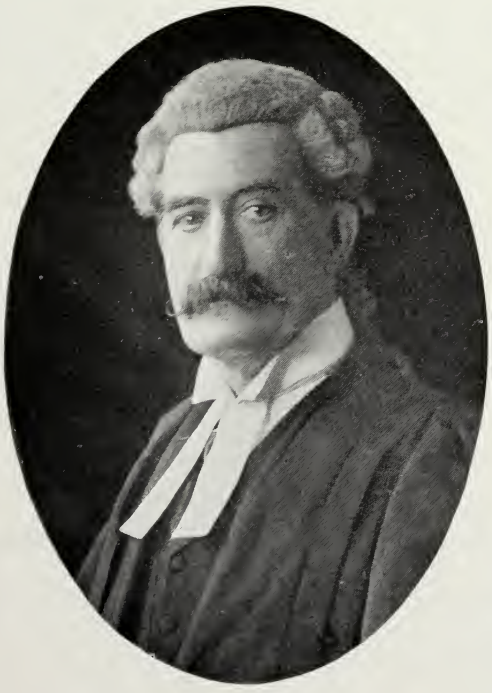

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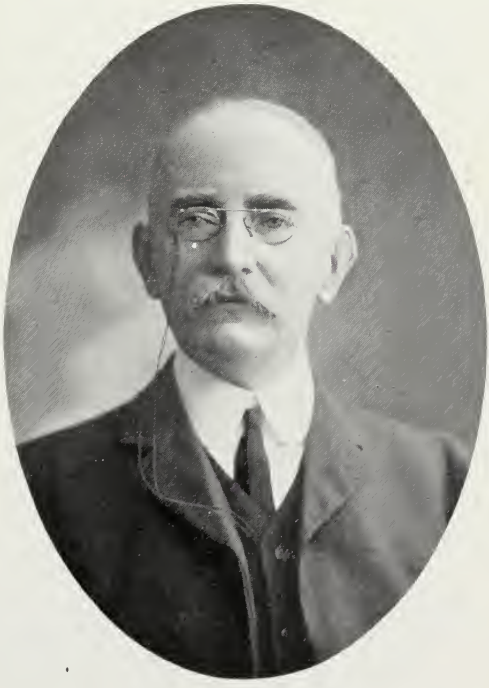

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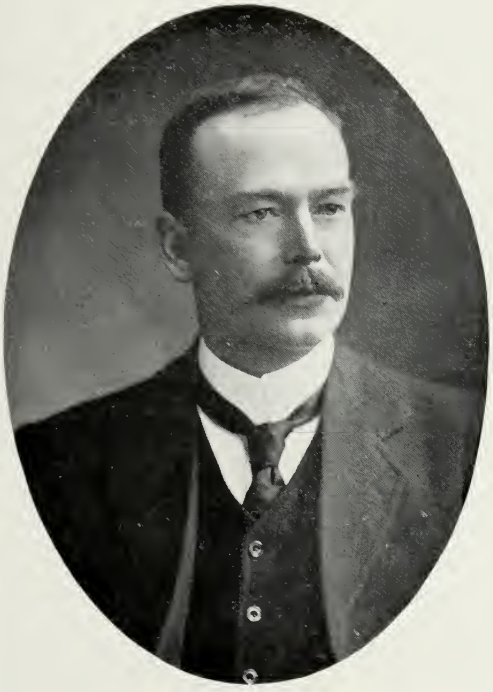

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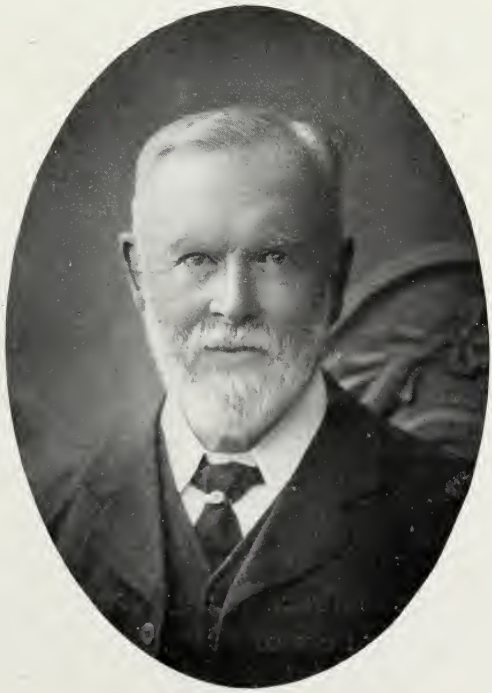

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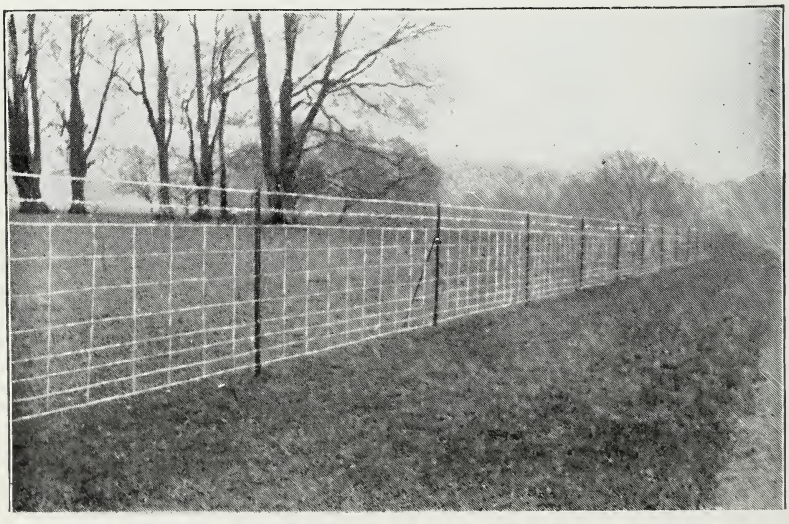

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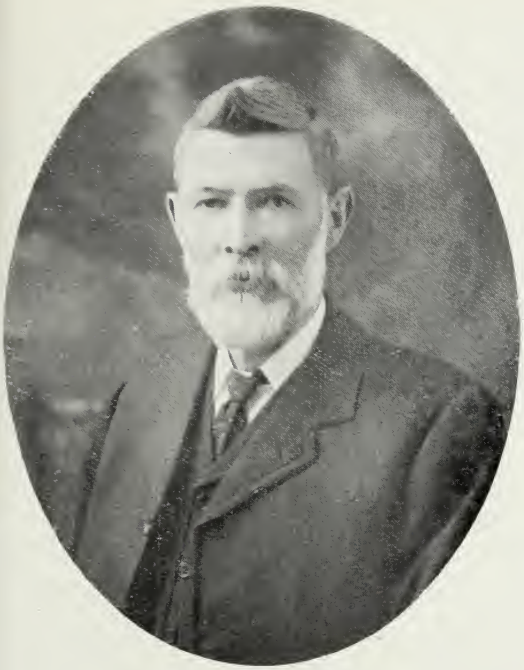

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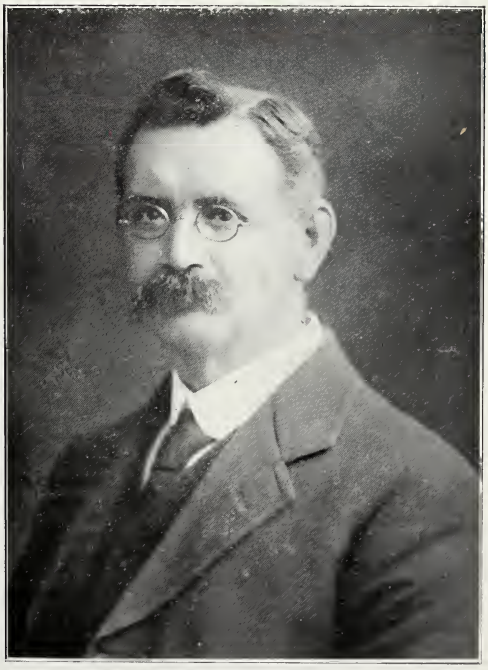

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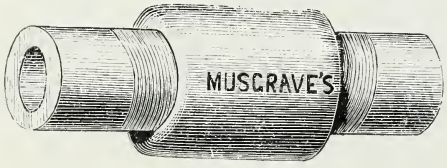

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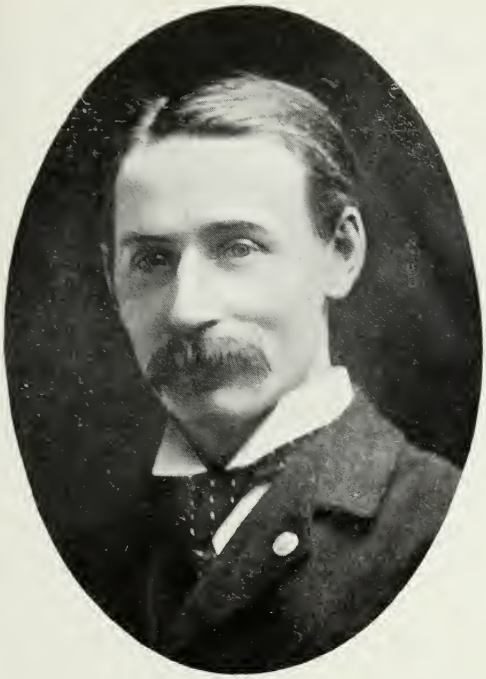
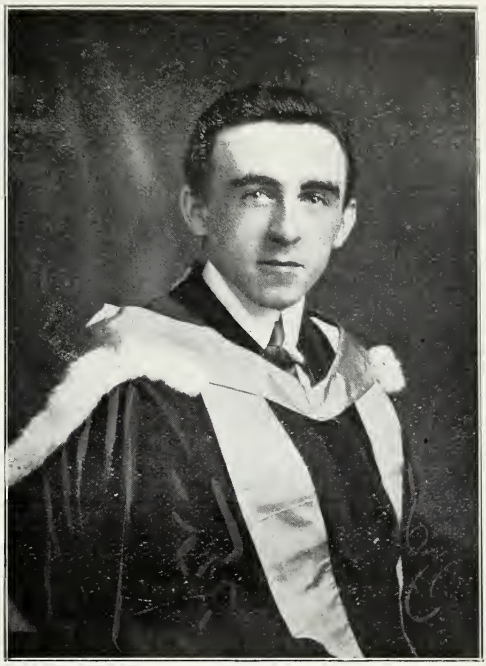


Teige O'Donoghue.
(Tomás.)



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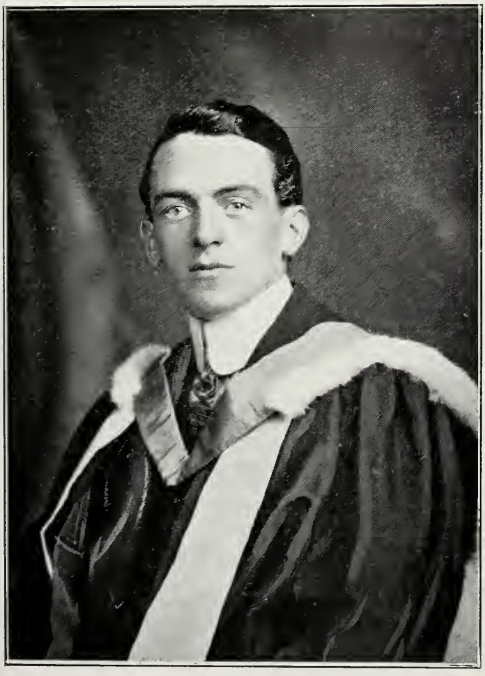

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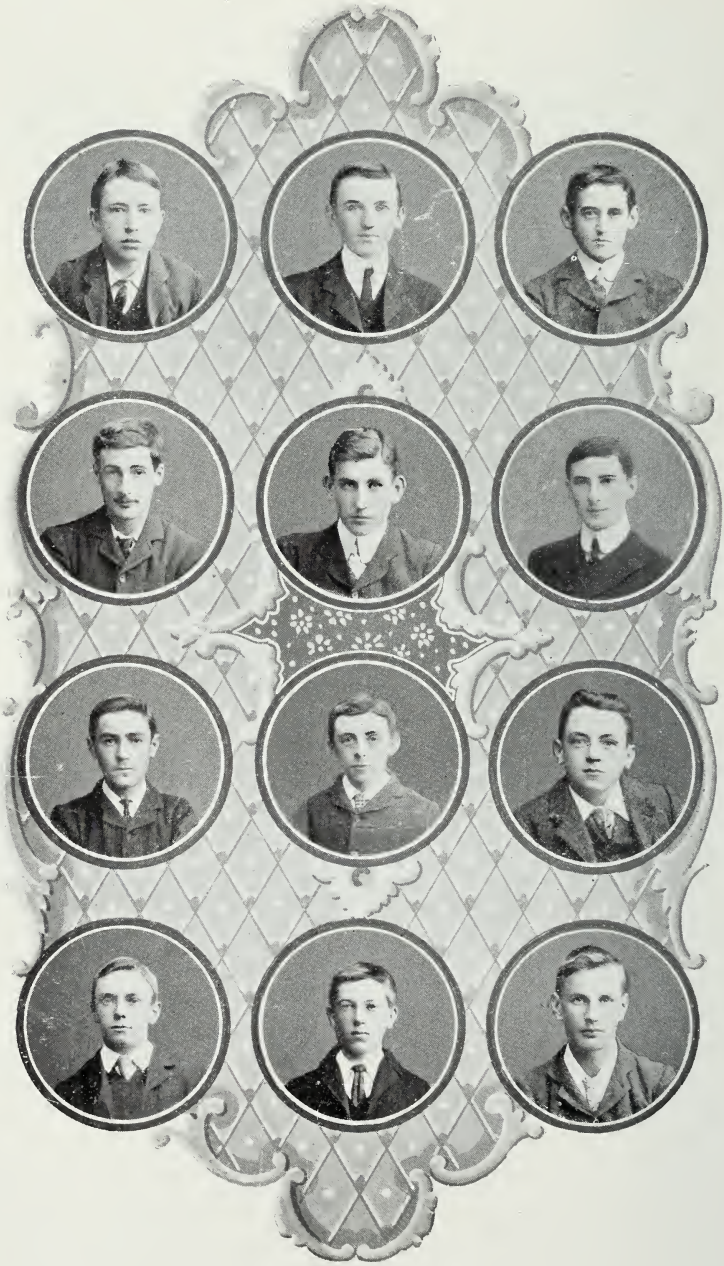

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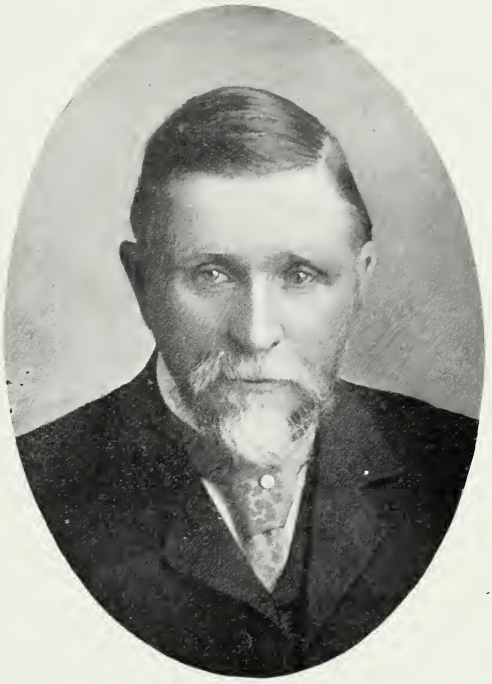

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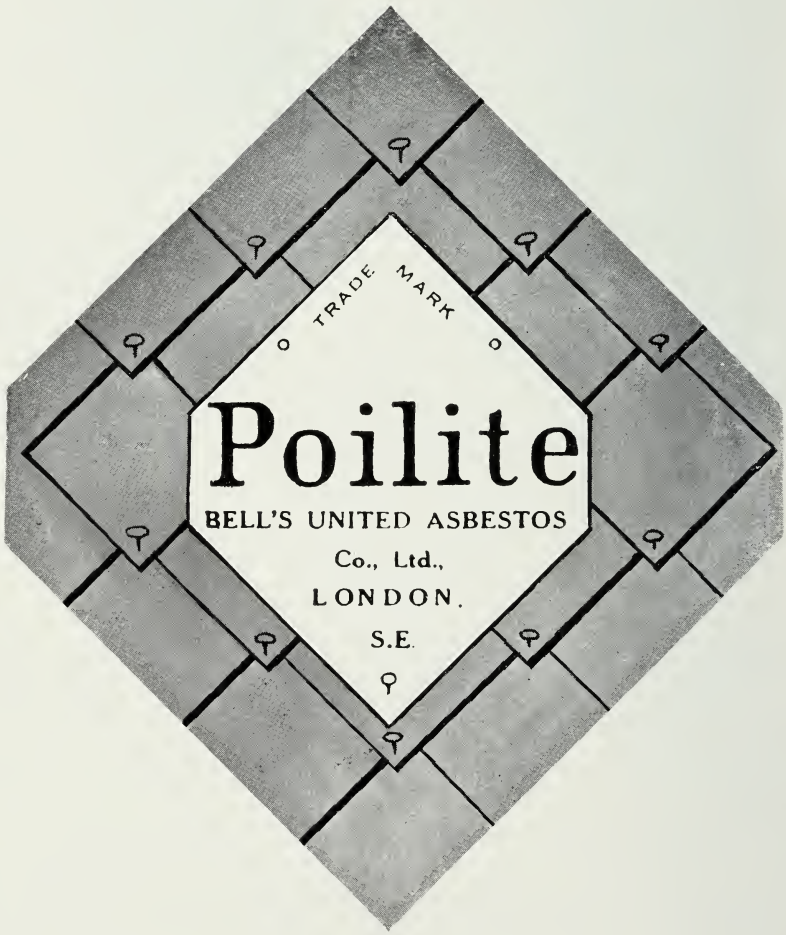
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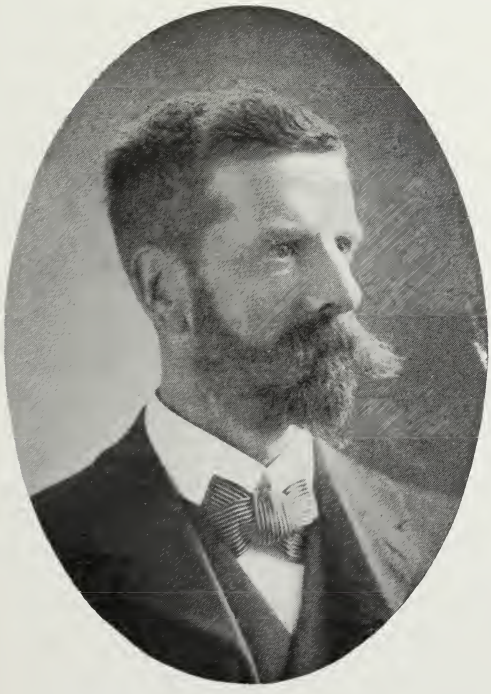

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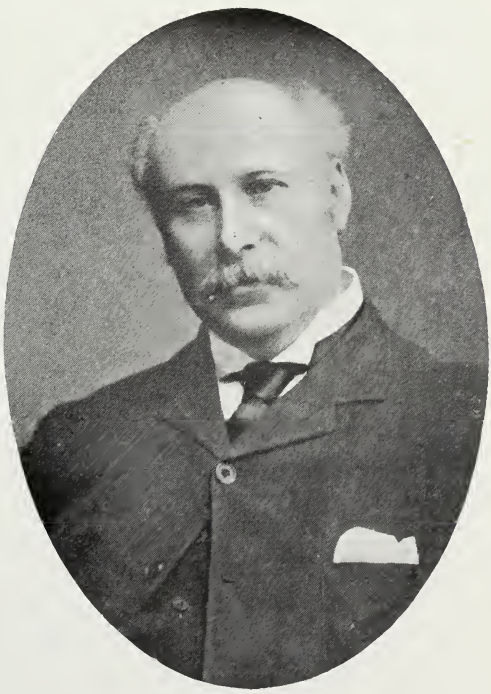

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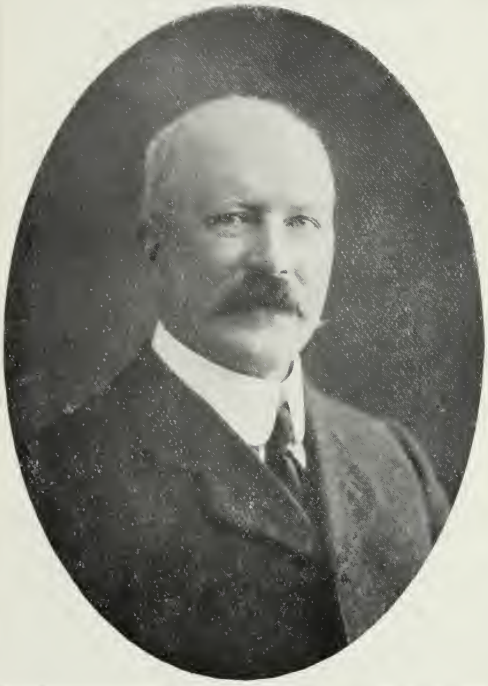

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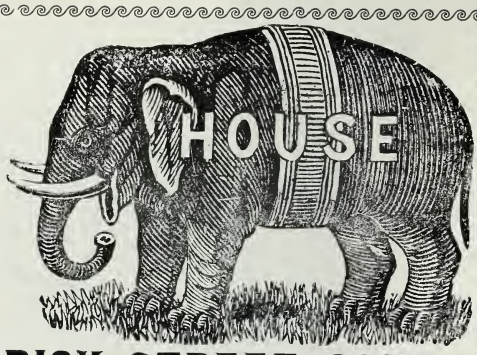

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Owing to the strenuous labours of men such as Dr. Douglas Hyde, Sir Samuel Ferguson, and Mr. Standish O'Grady, the Irish bardic tales have become a part of English literature. To men such as these undying gratitude is due, and no less to the Celtic scholars of the Continent, particularly of Germany, who having mastered mediæval Irish, have translated with painstaking accuracy many of the old tales, and thus, independent of the intrinsic value of the tales themselves, have opened up new fields to the poet and artist. These old romances, but lately rescued from oblivion, have come to recall our minds to noble ideals;

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Perhaps the most graphic and entertaining of all these tales are those which centre round Conor Mac Nessa, Cuchulainn, and the other Knights of the Red Branch. The Cuchulainn Saga is throughout filled with glowing accounts of war and valour, deeds of heroism, sustained by the supernatural, transporting us into regions of mystery from which we are led back by the gentle human touches which in the most extravagant Irish tales are to be found thick as leaves in Vallombrosa.

This semi-mythical heroic age of the Cuchulainn cycle is a pleasant field for lovers of Irish literature; and in roaming the rich regions of our history's past in search of material for our Pageant, the charm of this golden vale in the Hesperides of our literature was so fascinating that it was impossible to pass it over. The mighty figure of Cuchulainn looming big as a background in almost every incident holds you strangely, and gives an air of strength and greatness to events which otherwise might be regarded as trivial and childish, Cuchulainn

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absent. The very names of Conall Carnach, Fergus Mac Roy, Cormac Conninglass, and Laeg, the charioteer, retain an echo, a murmur of battle, clear and distinctive as ocean shells whisper the voice of the sea. The betrayal of the sons of Usnach is a dark spot on the otherwise brilliant escutcheon of Conor; it at once arouses our indignation and excites commiseration, because Deirdre, the most beautiful and pathetic figure in the whole range of our history, claims all our compassion, and Deirdre is here the pivot of the story. Cuchulainn is big in this story of Deidre, though he does not figure as an actor; but it is his absence that precipitates the tragedy; and as the withdrawal of the sun emphasises its power, and the deep evening shadows on sea and land gradually thickening into gloom convey to us more forcibly than the refulgence of the noonday the power of this world of light, so the dark cloud descending over Naoise and his brothers, enveloping more thickly the gentle Deirdre, speaks loudly of Cuchulainn, and we regret his absence.

ACT I.

CUCHULAINN, THE BOY HERO OF THE GAEL.

IN the first act of the Pageant we are introduced to Cuchulainn, or, more correctly, to Setanta, for it is in the course of this act that his "hero-name, at which the mightiest of the men of Alba shall turn pale," is conferred. The location of the opening scene is Emania, the home of Conor and of Craobh Ruadh. After the opening chorus by the choir, a stirring piece, written for the occasion by Tómas, an alumnus of the Monastery, the strains of warpipes are heard in the distance, and then the eye is caught by a brilliant spectacle indeed.

Emerging from the tastily erected dun of Conor we see advance in stately column king, druid, bard, chieftain and warrior in martial array, headed by the Boy Corps of King Conor, one hundred strong, the sons of the Ulster chiefs. We are brought back at once two thousand years, we live in the Heroic Age. As in some fair dawn, resplendent in costume the most picturesque, we see advance, clustering round their king, the children and heroes of Ireland, their long hair floating over their shoulders, around their necks torcs of gold, clad in many-coloured tunics, rich in beautiful Celtic ornament, with ample cloaks fastened at the shoulders by brooches of gold and silver, with naked knees and prettily strapped trews, they come, bearing in their hands long, lithe spears; and as they move with graceful mien, the jingle of their swords makes music with the rumbling of the war-chariots and the prancing of steeds. They pass before us, these great-hearted children of Ireland, and Conor reviews his Boy Corps and pays them many compliments, which are lustily cheered to the echo. The hurling game introduces the young Setanta, and his rather vigorous encounter

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with the Boy Corps brings him immediately into the presence of the King, who recognises his nephew, and explanations made, Setanta is named the leader of the corps.

Back again to Emania's stronghold, with gaily floating banners, winds that princely train, and we follow eagerly with our eyes lest one shade of the the gorgeous blending of colour should escape us. While we remain lost in thought, living in the grand old past, we are aroused by the merry ring of anvil and lusty voices of smiths singing in the sweet Gaelic tongue a lively accompaniment to their strokes. Yes, there is the forge of Cullain, Conor's chief armourer; we see old Cullain himself entering by the wicket, and admiringly viewing his brawny men as they forge the stout weapons for Ulster. After a hearty greeting to their chief, suddenly all are attracted by the loud blast of a horn, and a herald, splendidly arrayed, is seen riding towards the armoury. With notes triumphant he summons all, and announces the approach of Conor. We are at a loss here which to admire the more—the clear authoritative voice of the herald or the magnificence of his attire. Almost immediately through the clear autumn air the inspiring strains of the war pipes, mingled with hum of human voices, are borne to us, and once again eyes and fancy are busy with the present and the past. An inspiring sight, the men of Ulster coming to Cullain's banquet. Cullain advances to meet his guests, and having suitably greeted one and all, he leads them to the banquet hall. They were princely, those old Irish, and Cullain's hall looks cheery and his board is amply spread. The King sits beneath a canopy, and Fergus and the other Knights of the Red Branch are ranged in order. Warriors and retainers crowd the hall and arrange themselves at table, on couch and floor. A pretty sight the children of the chiefs playing before the lawn, and now and then ceasing from their merry sport to watch the grim old warriors as they quaff their flowing bowls. Cullain toasts the King, and right heartily the warriors respond with touching of beakers and clashing of arms. White-bearded Cathbad, at Conor's request, leads his bardic choir in a rousing song of battle; whilst sound of mirth and laughter echo through the dun. The banquet proceeds, thus enlivened by song and jest, until the unexpected appearance of Setanta, who enters bearing the signs of recent strife. With breathless attention all listen to the narration of his terrible fight with Cullain's fierce hound. This is an impressive scene, and the old man wailing his faithful hound makes a touching picture. Setanta is moved, too, by Cullain's sorrow, and offers to take the place of the hound as guardian and defender of the dun of the smith. Cathbad, the druid, in his seer fit foretells Setanta's future renown, and entreats him to take the name Cuchulainn (hound of the smith) conferred by the King. The boy agrees to the change, and the scene comes to a close with a farewell address from Conor to Cullain.

The last scene of this Act is the "Taking of Arms." Cuchulainn, eager to prove himself a warrior, desires of the King permission to lay aside the mimic implements of war and to assume the dress and weapons of a warrior knight. A series of feats of arms are gone through. Conor is satisfied that his youthful nephew is fully versed in all the lore of war, and a festival is announced to

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celebrate the event. Little boys and maidens in pretty costume troop in and we are entertained by merry dancing, in which Cuchulainn joins.

The festivities over, Cuchulainn accompanied by the charioteer, Ibar, essays his first foray. We witness the departure in Conor's chariot, and we are privileged also to see the return. The watchman on the walls of Emain describes the returning Cuchulainn :—"A solitary warrior draws near to thee, O Conor, and terribly he comes; upon the chariot poles are bleeding heads; wild birds are flying round the car, and wild, unbroken stags are tethered fast behind." The skin clad Ibar and his youthful charge dash by us, and the gory heads of Foll, Tuacall, and Fandall, the giant sons of Nechtan, dangle grimly from the chariot beam.

In this first Act we have made the acquaintance of and become familiar with "The Hound of Ulster." We shall meet him again in Act III.

ACT II.

THE STORY OF DEIRDRE.

"Woe to Emain, roof and wall,
Woe to Red Branch, hearth and hall!
Tenfold woe and black dishonour
To the false and foul Clan Conor!"

DR. DOUGLAS HYDE in his "Literary History of Ireland" says that the story of Deirdre is "the finest, most pathetic and best conceived of any in the whole range of our literature." This beautiful piece forms the second Act of our pageant.

The Ulster Herald, in a voice beautifully modulated, makes known to us the cause of Conor's anger against the Sons of Usnach; the birth of Deirdre, her up-bringing at the Court of Conor, her predilection for Naoise, the eldest of the sons of Usnach; the wrath of Conor at the loss of his intended wife, the flight of Deirdre and the brothers to Alba. We follow the story attentively, and when the Herald retires we are all eagerness to see the gentle Deirdre and the noble sons of Usnach. The great curtain rises and reveals a woodland scene with Naoise pacing moodily like one "whose soul is sad and much dismayed." He pauses and his eye falls on Deirdre, who has approached softly, and now enquires in gentle accents of her lord the reason of "that naughty knitting of the brow." Naoise's heart is full to overflowing, and passionately he pours forth his flood of sorrow, and bewails like many an exiled Gael, his absence from his native land.

Sir Samuel Ferguson's "Lays of the Red Branch" supplies the main portion

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of the text in this scene, and nothing further need be said as to the literary merit of the piece.

Whilst Deirdre is seeking to dispel Naoise's gloom, Ainle and his companions of the chase announce their arrival by merry shouts of laughter, and that their expedition has been successful is evident from their many trophies. Ainle joins in the efforts to rouse the drooping spirits of his brother, and many cogent reasons are put forward to keep him in his safe retreat. The keen-eyed Deirdre now espies, approaching from the direction of the sea, Ardan and his followers, who immediately are at hand and breathlessly announce the appearance of a sail. Deirdre has a strong suspicion that the news bodes no good; and her presentiment is verified when Fergus and his followers arrive and offer a pardon from Conor and an invitation to return to Ireland. Naoise gladly accepts the offer on the pledge of Fergus, and the departure of the whole company brings the first scene to a close.

Our next introduction is to Borach, "the well-loved, valiant brother of the Branch," and he is named by Fergus. But Borach is a tool of Conor's, and there is something other than brotherhood in his welcome. Fergus is to be decoyed, and the ill-fated sons of Usnach are to go alone to Emania. Deirdre's protest, Borach's fierce resistance, the quandary of Fergus, and Naoise's decision "Where vow conflicts with vow, first vow'd prevails," form a beautiful and varied scene. Fergus leaves with Borach, entrusting his charge to the care of his sons, Buinne Borb and Illan Fionn, who "from hence to Emain gate" are answerable for their father's honour. As the procession moves out of sight the choir sing a warning to the sons of Usnach.

Scene Three of this Act is the most beautiful of the whole pageant. We see the confiding trust of the brothers and their shameful betrayal. The chess scene has a very pretty setting, and Naoise's discovery of Conor's spy, at whom he throws a chessman, is very effective. Buinne Borb, on promises of broad land, betrays his trust, thus bearing out Deirdre's suspicion of one "to whom the gods are possibilities.

Levarcam, Deirdre's faithful nurse, is a grand figure in the scene. The fidelity of Illan Fionn is in striking contrast with his brother's conduct. We follow the tragedy to the end, and witness the self-destruction of Deirdre after her lament for "the three falcons of the Mount of Culan, the three lions of the wood, the three sons of the breast of the Ultonians, the three props of the battalion of Chuailgne."

The funeral cortege of the three brothers and of Deirdre, whom

> "Many a day the Three
> On their linked bucklers bore."

passes before us and winds slowly towards Emania. At intervals the biers are lowered and the caoiners wail over the youthful dead. The Act closes with the singing of Moore's stirring song

> "'Avenging and Bright."

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ACT III.

MAEVE, THE WARRIOR QUEEN.

INCIDENTS from the "Táin Bó Chuailgne" or "Cattle Raid of Cooley" make up the third Act. After a rousing martial song by the brilliantly arrayed Bardic choir a fanfare of trumpets "takes prisoner the ear." From the Castle of Rath Cruachan advances a mounted herald bearing the devices of Maeve, and accompanied by two spearmen. In clear and distinct tones he acquaints us with the causes that led to that famous Cow Quest which has furnished our literature with its Iliad. The herald departs, and the shrill notes of the war-pipes direct our attention to Cruachan. The hosts of the mighty Táin advance from the portals of the Castle. Towering over all in her Battle-chariot, which is surrounded by a bodyguard of her tributary Princes, is the renowned Maeve, that illustrious Western Warrior Queen whose name and deeds loom large in many of our ancient tales. Maeve is truly a Queen of Men, and she looks every inch a warrior. Before us files that trail of Princes and Men of Might.

Arrived at the Council Chamber, we see in bolder relief the great personality of Maeve as she harangues her warriors and recounts the insults offered to her and her Kingdom by Ulster. During the Council couriers from the North arrive, and it is evident that the important news they impart is not agreeable to the Council.

Scene II.

"Sultach's son alone contending,
Every pass and ford defending,
Mighty in his battle anger,
Held the borders of his Nation."

Dr Hyde says that the fight between Cuchulainn and Ferdia is perhaps the finest episode in the Táin. Scene II. introduces us once more to Cuchulainn. He is guarding the "Gates of the North." We hear his lament at the apathy of Ulster, which lies under Macha's curse. As he peers to right and left hoping against hope that some succour might be at hand in the deadly strait, he perceives a horseman approaching. It is his father, Sultach. Their meeting is affectionate, and Cuchulainn, hies his father to Emania to make one more effort to arouse Conor and his warriors from their dreadful lethargy. Fergus MacRoy next appears. Fergus, after the betrayal of the sons of Usnach, in anger left Ulster and sought a shelter with Maeve in Connaught. He and his followers follow the hosts of the Táin. He comes now from Maeve with terms to Cuchulainn. Maeve stipulates that she and her hosts will not pass further North if Cuchulainn agrees to engage in single combat each day with a warrior from the Connaught host. Cuchulainn agrees, and Fergus returns to Maeve. We next see the approach of the Táin in all its martial

Irish Historical Pageant, "The Fight at the Ford" between Cuchulainn and Ferdia.

splendour, and Ferdia of the Firbolgs, the life long friend of Cuchulainn, advances to engage in deadly combat with his friend. The interview and the sundered friendship, the fight and the death of Ferdia, are all enacted before us. Cuchulainn makes a pathetic figure, as over the slain Ferdia he utters his lament :—

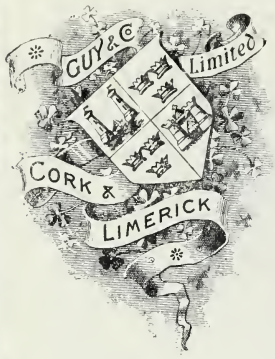
"Alas, O Ferdia, that thou hast fallen by my hand,
Dear to me was thy beautiful ruddiness,
Dear to me thy comely, perfect form,
Dear to me thy gray clear-blue eye,
Dear to me thy wisdom and thy eloquence."

Laeg, the charioteer, seeing the threatening attitude of the men of Connaught, hastens Cuchulainn from the scene, and the body of Ferdia is borne away.

Act III.—Mr. Standish O'Grady, in his preface to "The Gates of the North," quotes a writer thus :—"There is pleasure in watching the dispersion of darkness before the rising sun, the darkness melting slowly into the silver twilight, the twilight ripening gradually into the golden day." This pleasure is ours in the final Act of the Pageant, but first we have depicted the darkest hour. The armies of Connaught and Ulster are before us, and we hear the dreadful war cries, and feel the mighty shock of battle, as these pagan hosts engage in conflict. The ghouls of war peal their horrid thunders, and groans of dying and shout of victor mingle thick with arms rattle. Eventually, Connaught is driven back, and midst the din a mysterious darkness palls all nature. We behold the fair dawn of Christianity. Away over Emania a luminous cross appears in the heavens, the terrified combatants gaze on the wondrous sign, and Cathbad, the Druid, explains to all its meaning. He tells them of the One True God, and how

"He looked upon men with compassion, and sent from His Kingdom of Light
His Son in the shape of a mortal, to teach and to guide them aright."

The news of the Redemption is joyfully received by these well-disposed Pagan ancestors of ours, and Cathbad continuing, foretells the future renown of the Island of Saints and Scholars.



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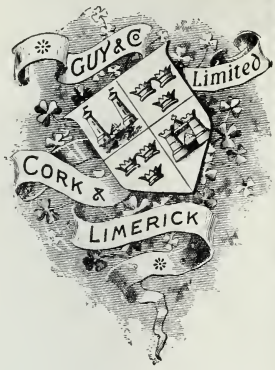

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HAVING thus briefly outlined the story of the Pageant, it becomes our duty, as well as our pleasure, to pay a well-merited meed of praise and acknowledgment to those to whom we are much indebted for the valuable assistance rendered us in the very laborious work which the preparation for the Pageant entailed

In the first place, the expression of our heartfelt thanks is due to the Rev. J. C. O'Flynn for the untiring care and attention which he devoted to the training of the various performers in the Pageant Play. To Father O'Flynn, who takes such a deep interest in the Gaelic revival, his was a labour of love to make the old scenes of Ireland's Heroic Age to live again. Steeped as he is himself in everything that is truly national and patriotic, he infused his own enthusiasm into the hearts of the youthful actors in the Pageant, so that he got them to realize and act their parts as if they were actual participants in the events of the heroic times they were portraying.

Upon Mr. Joseph Curtis devolved the very important work of the training of the Pageant Choir. Anyone who is acquainted with the work of Mr. Curtis in his special sphere will readily realize how painstaking, how conscientious, and how whole-hearted was the spirit in which he devoted himself to the successful working out of the musical side of the Pageant. The results amply justify the high opinion in which Mr. Curtis is held. The interweaving of the old Irish airs with the story of the Pageant gives a pathos and harmony to the whole, without which much of its charm would be wanting. Herr Theo Gmür, whose services have been always most generously given whenever the Christian Brothers needed his help, very kindly selected, arranged and harmonized some of the airs. We are very glad to have this opportunity of marking our appreciation of his kindness on this and many former occasions.

The Pageant would have been wanting in much of its completeness and perfection were it not for the very efficient help rendered by Mr. Timothy O'Sullivan in the training of the performers, especially in the martial exercises of the Pageant. Mr. O'Sullivan seems to be the inheritor of the warlike spirit of the old Irish Chiefs; the clash of spear and shield, the dexterous handling of the sword, for which our ancestors were so famous, all come as natural to Mr. O'Sullivan as if he had lived in the days of Cuchulainn himself.

To Mr. J. G. Merne, the very capable and efficient Manual Instructor in our Schools, our best thanks are due for all the time and labour which he devoted to the work of the Pageant. In this connection, too, the name of Mr. Edward Lyons deserves special mention.

We are deeply indebted, also, for much valuable help to the Rev. J. Campbell, C.M., Castleknock College, and to Mr. P. H. Pearse, B.A., B.L., Head Master of St. Enda's College, Dublin. Very successful promoters of Pageant Performances in connection with their respective colleges, we had their experience to guide us; and they were ever ready to render us any assistance in their power. By the kind permission of Mr. Pearse we are able to include The Song of the Smiths, "Dins, Dons, Direró," in our performance. Our grateful

acknowledgments are also due to Mr. Tadhg O'Donoghue (Tóṁas), who very kindly wrote for us an Irish rendering of the Opening Chorus ("ı n-eamain na Loac") and put into modern Irish, preserving the metre of the original, "Cuchulainn's Lament over Ferdia."

A final word of thanks in connection with the Pageant must be given to the Cork Electric Lighting and Tramway Company, and to the Cork Gas Company, for the very effective arrangements they made for the lighting of the grounds. We feel much obliged to their courteous managers, Messrs. H. H. Nalder and T. P. Travers, for the personal interest they manifested in the carrying out of the details of the work.

Our duty would not be complete did we fail to record our appreciation of the valuable help afforded by the members of the Centenary Committee, as well as by the ladies who kindly undertook the Garden Fete in connection with the celebration. We also gladly avail of the opportunity to thank our worthy Lord Mayor, Alderman Simcox, for the unfailing courtesy with which he filled the position of President of the Centenary Celebrations. We have likewise to express our obligation to Mr. Barry C. Galvin, who was at all times ready to place his valuable services at our disposal as Chairman of the Centenary Committee. The Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. P. J. O'Leary and J. A. Cunningham, were a host in themselves, and by the devoted and whole-hearted way in which they did everything in their power to bring the Celebration to a successful issue, they have added another to the many obligations we already owe them for their generous services on behalf of the Christian Brothers.

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